



**Governing Council  
of the United Nations Human  
Settlements Programme**

HSP/GC/20/2

Distr. General  
24 January 2005

Original: English

**Twentieth session**

Nairobi, 4–8 April 2005

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
(UN-Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director**

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*Summary*

Progress in implementing the resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, in 2003, has been encouraging. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as the newest programme of the United Nations, is still adjusting to the many changes that this status implies, although it is apparent that internal capacities need to be harmonized with those of other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the forging of new development partnerships, and receipt of additional non-earmarked support.

UN-Habitat has been recognized as having a special role in linking emergency relief interventions to medium and long-term reconstruction programmes. This calls for further strengthening of the Programme's inter-agency cooperation and collaboration, particularly in the humanitarian fields. The forging of new development partnerships, and the securing of additional non-earmarked support remain of crucial importance.

The present report makes clear that a new form of organic growth has begun to transform the Programme throughout the reporting period, brought on by the guiding resolutions of Member States. It is clear that the Habitat Agenda provides the principles and strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in cities and UN-Habitat is now one of the best placed agencies to assist with both urban poverty reduction and social and economic growth in the human settlements in developing countries.

This challenge, however, has not yet been fully recognized by a range of development practitioners and donors. To achieve the expectations of the international community, UN-Habitat requires additional funding and other forms of assistance, in order to develop or update policies and programmes in line with the realities that steer the Programme's response to the many prevailing challenges and needs in cities, especially in support of the urban poor in developing countries.

Looking ahead, there is also the expectation that target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals – to improve the life of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 (the original target set in 2000) – seriously underestimates a problem which already confronts 1 billion people and should be updated to reflect realities in the 2005 review of implementation of the Millennium Declaration by the General Assembly. In addition, there are moves at hand to elevate environmental health, particularly in relation to water and sanitation, on the global agenda and this, of necessity, would make targets 10 and 11 top priorities of the Millennium Development Goals.

Accordingly, the present report, after a brief introduction, reviews the work of UN-Habitat since the nineteenth session of the Governing Council in support of the urban poor and local authorities within the framework of its implementation of the resolutions adopted at that session.

K0580291 280205

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## I. Introduction

1. For UN-Habitat, the biennium 2003–2004 was a time for both focus and expansion. The previous four years provided a period of self-assessment and transition, resulting in new executive direction, a restructured organization, an elevated position within the United Nations system, a regularized staff and a well-defined mandate targeted to the plight of the urban poor. Shifting into higher gear, UN-Habitat has used the past two years to marshal and reorient programme resources towards a strategic vision.
2. At the nineteenth session of the Governing Council in 2003, the UN-Habitat Strategic Vision was presented as a comprehensive framework for implementing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11 (significantly to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020). The underlying dynamics were grim: already, since the ratification of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the worldwide slum population had grown by approximately 75 million. By the twentieth session of the Governing Council, just five years after the Declaration, there will be more people born and living in slums than were targeted for help in the first place.
3. The UN-Habitat strategic vision document made it clear that the combined slum upgrading efforts of the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, national Governments, local authorities and non-governmental organizations would not be able to catch up with the runaway problem of slums. Yes, it would be possible to improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, but while that is happening, another two-thirds of a billion people will have been drawn into the misery of slum life. Because of these dynamics, the reactive or curative approach to slums is in urgent need of complementary assistance from a forward-looking, preventive strategy that encompasses the whole city, from its slums to its rural hinterlands.
4. Facing the growing magnitude of the slum problem will thus require a three-part, integrated strategy that is both corrective and pre-emptive:
  - (a) Slum upgrading: physical upgrading of housing, infrastructure, in particular water and sanitation, and environment; social upgrading through improved education, health and secure tenure; governance upgrading through participatory processes, community leadership and empowerment;
  - (b) Urban development: stimulation of job creation through citywide advance land-use planning; land and property rights administration; development and management of the revenue base; infrastructure improvement; amenities provision; improved city management and urban governance practices facilitated through decentralization of power and responsibilities; community empowerment and gender balance; and vulnerability reduction and better security;
  - (c) Regional development: reduction and diffusion of urbanization impacts through national urban policies and enabling laws that support secondary and tertiary cities; metropolitan governance; and the planning and management of integrated urban-rural economic and lifeline systems. A balanced territorial development vision and strategy to avoid urban sprawl cities and its associated problems is required.
5. The response of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session supported the strategic vision, which is reflected in the set of 18 guiding resolutions that were passed. A number of the resolutions target administrative processes, the work programme and budget. Others address the work of the organizational divisions of UN-Habitat and their programmatic subunits, including the two global campaigns, the water and sanitation trust fund and the slum upgrading facility. Still others provide direction in working with partner groups and in coordinating with other United Nations agencies. Several of the resolutions direct UN-Habitat to buttress its work among the poorest regions or classes of countries, among local authorities and their associations, and among youth and women. At its nineteenth session, the Governing Council also endorsed the installation of Habitat Programme managers throughout the regions, representing all UN-Habitat programmes in developing countries. The strengthening of information collection and management, and the enhancement of UN-Habitat expertise in urban and regional development (e.g., through rural-urban linkages) are also taken up in the guiding resolutions adopted at the nineteenth session.
6. The subject of the present report to the twentieth session of the Governing Council is progress in the implementation of those resolutions.

## **II. Suggested action by the Governing Council**

7. The Governing Council is invited to consider the following report, with a view to the possible adoption of a resolution on the matter.

## **III. Follow-up to the resolutions adopted at the nineteenth session of the Governing Council**

### **A. Resolution 19/1: Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

8. In resolution 19/1, the Governing Council noted with appreciation the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat in the preparation of the new Council's rules of procedure (HSP/GC/20/INF/5) and recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of those draft rules. Having considered the Council's recommendation, the General Assembly adopted the proposed rules through its resolution 58/227 of 23 December 2003.

9. Pursuant to the provisions of rule 64 of the new rules of procedure and the statement made by the chair of the working group which prepared the rules, on 27 October 2004 the Executive Director sent a letter to all Governments requesting them to inform the secretariat by 15 December 2004 if it was required that UN-Habitat consult them regarding any invitation of the Executive Director to local authorities in their respective countries to participate, as observers, in the deliberations of the twentieth session of the Governing Council. A number of Member States have indicated that they should be consulted.

### **B. Resolution 19/2: Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2004–2005**

10. In paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 19/2, the Governing Council approved the draft work programme for the 2004–2005 biennium (HSP/GC/19/8, as amended in document HSP/19/8/Add.1), and the budget for the biennium 2004–2005 (HSP/GC/19/9/Add. 3). In paragraph 3, the Council endorsed the budget targets detailed in document HSP/GC/19/9 and authorized the Executive Director, subject to availability of resources and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to make commitments above the level of \$44,412,900 and up to \$50,520,500.

11. As requested in paragraph 4, the revised work programme and budget were submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The Committee of Permanent Representatives was informed of the response from ACABQ, dated 4 June 2003. ACABQ acknowledged receipt of the revised budget.

12. In response to paragraph 6, in which Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners were urged to increase their financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, voluntary contributions have increased, and the projected annual contributions for the biennium 2004–2005 are in line with the requirement for the higher level budget scenario (\$11 million), compared to \$7 in the previous biennium. In addition, UN-Habitat has been successful in signing two more multi-year funding agreements with donors.

13. In paragraph 7, the Executive Director was requested to consult the Committee of Permanent Representatives while preparing the chapter on human settlements of the medium-term plan. During the preparation of the 2006–2007 strategic framework that replaced the 2006–2009 medium-term plan, UN-Habitat (as the secretariat) worked very closely with the Committee of Permanent Representatives so that its views were fully reflected in the final document submitted to the Programme Planning and Budget Division. The chapter on human settlements was approved by the Committee for Programme Coordination in June 2004 and the General Assembly in December 2004.

14. In paragraph 8, the Executive Director is requested to develop innovative approaches to financing, and to mobilize adequate financial resources, including for innovative activities. The pilot phase of the Slum Upgrading Facility was launched and additional information on this is available in chapter III of the follow-up report on resolution 19/11 (HSP/GC/20/8), on key concepts

underpinning the Foundation. The water and sanitation trust fund has also been strengthened, with more donors joining (see section F below). In response to paragraph 9, the work programme and budget for 2006–2007 has been prepared in a prioritized and integrated format.

15. In response to paragraph 10, in which the Executive Director is requested to present progress reports on the implementation of the work programme to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the secretariat presented the work plan for 2004 on 3 March 2004, and, on 9 December 2004, presented a comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the work programme for 2004. Progress reports on specific programmes, as requested by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, were also presented, including: on implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on Slum Upgrading; on water and sanitation for cities; on preparations for the World Urban Forum II; on strengthening the UN-Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation; on the Monitoring and Research Division; on the decentralization and strengthening of local authorities; on strengthening the work of monitoring and evaluation activities; and on mainstreaming gender issues in the work of UN-Habitat.

#### C. Resolution 19/3: **Global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance**

16. Resolution 19/3 requested the Executive Director to report on progress made in implementing the global campaigns for secure tenure and urban governance. Progress is reported in HSC/GC/20/INF/7 in response to the operative paragraphs of the resolution. An external evaluation of the campaigns is reported in a separate document (HSP/GC/20/INF/8).

17. During the period under review, the two global campaigns of UN-Habitat have been exposed to a number of important global issues, and concepts that have had a drastic impact on the course of their activities. The emergence and confirmation of the Millennium Development Goals, around which future development revolves, and the translation of these goals into principles and strategies for country policies has undoubtedly reinforced the importance of the global campaigns in urban areas. This pertains, in particular, to the target of improving the lives of slum dwellers, which has brought to the forefront the worrying trend of the growth and proliferation of slums and their impact on city management. Member States are recognizing the campaigns as important entry points for efforts to address this situation. While responding to this recognition and to a growing demand from Member States, the campaigns are confronted with many challenges to meet the demand.

#### D. Resolution 19/4: **Cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme**

18. Cooperation between UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a standing item of the Governing Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985, and pursuant to Commission resolution 10/3 of 16 April 1987 and UNEP Governing Council decisions 14/3 of 18 June 1987 and 22/2 of 7 February 2003 on the same subject. Progress in this area is covered under a joint report to the governing councils of both organizations, referenced on the UN-Habitat side as HSP/GC/20/12. The report highlights cooperation as follows: chapter I summarizes key developments in cooperation between the two agencies; chapter II looks at cooperation in the areas of assessment, policy development and implementation, including the joint implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999; chapter III looks at the cooperation that took place in the global regions, and chapter IV presents options for future cooperation.

#### E. Resolution 19/5: **Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers**

19. In resolution 19/5, on implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to report on progress made with implementation. A separate report to the Council on this issue (HSP/GC/20/6) reviews the progress made and the steps taken in this regard since its nineteenth session and includes relevant findings and observations on the current status of the implementation of the goal on slum dwellers. In light of the findings and observations, the report concludes with a number of recommendations to the Council at its twentieth session,

designed to inform its review and debate under this item. A separate report (HSP/GC/20/6/Add.1) covers the issue of monitoring of the goal on improving the lives of slum dwellers.

## **F. Resolution 19/6: Water and sanitation in cities**

20. In resolution 19/6, the Governing Council welcomed the establishment by the Executive Director of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund as a financing mechanism to support the creation of enabling environments for pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in developing-country cities and towns. The Council also supported continued implementation of the Water for African Cities Programme, in line with the recommendations of the evaluation report of that programme. It requested the Executive Director to take a number of actions in the field of urban drinking water and sanitation, and invited Governments and international financial institutions to increase their support to the water and sanitation activities of UN-Habitat.

21. In order further to strengthen its activities in the field of urban drinking water and sanitation, UN-Habitat has moved away from a traditional project-by-project, donor-by-donor, country-by-country approach to a well-coordinated programmatic approach that could allow donors to improve their aid-effectiveness by contributing to a consolidated Water and Sanitation Trust Fund dedicated to a well-defined goal and a clear set of objectives.

22. The reorganization of all water and sanitation activities of UN-Habitat into a comprehensive programme, with a pro-poor focus, was undertaken in late 2003. The ensuing Water and Sanitation Programme was approved in March 2004. UN-Habitat also continues to undertake activities aimed at enhancing cooperation with other United Nations and international agencies, and other relevant UN-Habitat partnerships. These include:

- (a) Joint initiative with the World Bank to develop a pro-poor governance framework and assessment methodology to be field-tested in current UN-Habitat and World Bank projects;
- (b) Alliance with Green Cross International aimed at developing an ethical and legal framework (a rights-based approach) for mobilizing support for water and sanitation from policy makers;
- (c) Partnership with the International Rainwater Harvesting Association and the City Foundation to develop manuals on urban rainwater harvesting (to be published as the “Blue Drop Series”);
- (d) Continuing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) campaigns, conducted in conjunction with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC);
- (e) Union with the Asian Development Bank and the South-East Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) to introduce water and sanitation into educational curriculums.

23. Where the elaboration of water and sanitation programmes is concerned, the second phase of the Water for African Cities Programme was formulated in line with recommendations from an independent evaluation of the programme’s first phase. An expert group meeting was convened in to develop the thematic priorities, implementation strategy and partnership arrangements in August 2003. The programme’s second phase was then launched by African ministers in Addis Ababa in December 2003 at the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, and received the full support of the African Ministers’ Council on Water. In addition to the eight countries covered by the Water for African Cities Programme (Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia), implementation of the programme’s second phase will include seven additional countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda). Depending on resource levels, other interested countries will be considered for inclusion in the future.

24. In line with the findings of an independent evaluation of the Water for African Cities Programme, UN-Habitat is seeking to establish collaborative arrangements with multilateral financial institutions, with a view to promoting investment in participating cities and identifying areas where, in its second phase, the programme could create a pro-poor focus and bring added value to projects being formulated by the African Development Bank.

25. In close consultation with country Governments and local stakeholders, and with support from the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, UN-Habitat has initiated the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative. The objective is to tackle the rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure in secondary towns around the lake, which have been neglected in past development plans. The initiative presents an opportunity to combine physical investments in infrastructure with targeted capacity-building, at the same time as protecting the lake's environment, which provides both food security and livelihoods. The findings of a rapid assessment of towns in the region were presented during Stockholm's Water Week, held in August 2004, by the three East African ministers responsible for water and the Secretary-General of the East African Community.
26. The Water for Asian Cities Programme is a collaborative initiative of UN-Habitat, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of the Netherlands, with the objective of supporting Asian cities in their efforts to achieve the water-related Millennium Development Goals by enhancing the flow of pro-poor investment in water and sanitation. This is a major type II outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, entailing capacity-building grant support of \$10 million (shared by the Government of the Netherlands and the Asian Development Bank) and follow-up Asian Development Bank loans of \$500 million to Asian cities over a period of five years (2003–2007).
27. The programme is currently being implemented in Madhya Pradesh, India, and Nanjing, China. In consultation with the Asian Development Bank, UN-Habitat is also planning to conduct a rapid appraisal of water and sanitation infrastructure, capacity-building and investment needs for secondary towns in the Greater Mekong region, in January 2005, to assist with achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the least developed countries that dominate this part of Asia. A water and sanitation programme for cities in interested countries with economies in transition is currently being discussed with countries in Eastern Europe.
28. As the lead agency in the United Nations system for urban water and sanitation issues, and as a member of the United Nations Millennium Task Force for Water and Sanitation, UN-Habitat is responsible for systematic and sustained tracking and review of progress towards attaining the water and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals. Trends, achievements and shortfalls in the urban water and sanitation sector are tracked to develop policies and programmes at national and city levels targeted at the urban poor.
29. As part of its monitoring work in the area of water and sanitation, UN-Habitat has been documenting what it has termed the "Unheard Voices of Women" through a project currently being implemented in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The objective of this initiative is to identify the challenges faced by women in gaining access to safe water and basic sanitation facilities in urban slums and informal settlements. The initial findings of this project were presented during the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in April 2004, and were acknowledged in the Chair's summary of this event.
30. Finally, following the request of the Governing Council, UN-Habitat has made its report on water and sanitation in the world's cities a triennial publication. The 2006 edition will be devoted to the issue of urban pro-poor water governance. A summary of the report will form an input to the World Water Development Report 2006.

#### G. Resolution 19/7: **Regional and technical cooperation**

31. Resolution 19/7 acknowledges that UN-Habitat is the lead United Nations agency in all areas of shelter and human settlements development, and has the responsibility to promote, facilitate and provide technical cooperation to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The resolution reaffirms that the complementarity and synergy between operational and normative functions constitute a major asset and comparative advantage of UN-Habitat.
32. In response to this resolution, UN-Habitat has expanded its cooperation with both the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and has elaborated a new funding strategy to sustain its regional offices.
33. Cooperation with the World Bank takes place within the framework of the Cities Alliance, an initiative launched in 1999, which is supported by UN-Habitat, the World Bank, UNEP and the Asian Development Bank, and also by 10 bilateral agencies, and which involves local authorities through the organization United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). UN-Habitat is active in the Cities Alliance partnership, both at policy level, as co-chair of the Consultative Group, and at

country level, where UN-Habitat regional offices contribute to project preparation, implementation and monitoring on the two priority themes of the Cities Alliance: large-scale slum upgrading programmes and city development strategies. To date the Cities Alliance has provided over \$40 million in grants, including more than \$13 million in 2004.

34. At its most recent annual meeting, held in Durban, South Africa, on 4 and 5 November 2004, the Consultative Group of the Cities Alliance endorsed the proposal of UN-Habitat, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to create a slum upgrading facility as a technical assistance and bridging finance vehicle to mobilize domestic resources for slum upgrading. Once properly funded, either through the Cities Alliance or directly through the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, the Slum Upgrading Facility will make the Cities Alliance a more effective means for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as requested in resolution 19/7 and in General Assembly resolution 57/275 of 20 December 2002.

35. Cooperation with UNDP is aimed at integrating sustainable urbanization into United Nations development assistance frameworks and poverty reduction strategy papers, and at supporting central and local governments in the development of capacities to implement human settlement policies, strategies and programmes, with a special focus on urban poverty and disasters.

36. In a new alliance with UNDP, UN-Habitat has increased its presence at country level through the recruitment of Habitat Programme managers located in UNDP country offices. A total of 30 such managers were in place at the end of 2004, at an estimated yearly cost of \$2 million. While Habitat Programme managers report to the regional offices, they work for all divisions of UN-Habitat, including as country-level liaison officers of the Executive Director. Funding for the managers is being mobilized from global programmes, the Habitat Foundation, the technical cooperation overhead account, and bilateral and multilateral sources. The deployment of Habitat Programme managers in the field is in line with the recommendations of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations, submitted by the Secretary General to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session in September 2004.

37. A workshop for Habitat Programme managers took place in Nairobi from 8 to 12 November 2004, to orient them in their role, including sessions on, first, mainstreaming urban issues in United Nations in-country activities; second, promoting UN-Habitat global programmes and campaigns at national and local levels; and, third, contributing to project preparation and monitoring in relation with regional offices. Earmarked contributions from bilateral agencies are essential to enable UN-Habitat to expand this wide-ranging initiative and reach more developing countries, including other least developed countries.

38. The regionalization strategy of UN-Habitat was presented to the Governing Council in document HSP/GC/19/INF/9. It aims at strengthening the existing regional offices based in Nairobi, Fukuoka and Rio de Janeiro. The strategy was updated in 2004 through the submission to the Committee of Permanent Representatives of a discussion paper on the funding of UN-Habitat regional offices over the period 2005–2007, reflecting the expanded mandate of the regional offices, and aimed at ensuring their future viability and sustainability by bringing them into the mainstream of UN-Habitat programme priorities through access to regular budget and Foundation resources. It further strengthens the links between operational and normative activities. It should be noted that, with the admission of UN-Habitat into the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), the regional offices' capacity to play a key role in responding to humanitarian emergencies as they arise, such as the 2004 tsunami disaster, has been enhanced through their geographical advantages and working relationships with Governments, UNDP and other partners.

39. A full description of current UN-Habitat operational activities is provided in document HSP/GC/20/INF/3. The document demonstrates how the majority of UN-Habitat operational activities are closely associated with the global campaigns and the Millennium Development Goals. It also shows that UN-Habitat devotes specific attention to the reconstruction of countries affected by human-made disasters. As such, it is expected that the Governing Council will support the proposed funding strategy by requesting Governments to contribute to regional funds and advocating the allocation of additional posts to regional offices.



## **H. Resolution 19/8: Arrangements regarding the accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners**

40. On 9 November 2004, the Executive Director sent letters to all Habitat Agenda partners (other than local authorities), drawing their attention to the provisions of resolution 19/8 and reminding them, first, that if their organization was a Habitat Agenda partner and had been accredited to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, accreditation would be reconfirmed upon request; second, that if their organization was a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, accreditation would be automatically granted upon request; and, third, that if their organization was a Habitat Agenda partner and did not meet any of the above criteria, it could be invited by the Executive Director and accredited on an ad hoc basis to the twentieth session of the Governing Council. All requests were vetted 10 weeks in advance, as required by resolution 19/8.

## **I. Resolution 19/9: Themes for the twentieth session of the Governing Council**

41. At its nineteenth session, the Governing Council decided by its resolution 19/9 that the two special themes of its twentieth session would be “Involvement of civil society in improving local governance” and “Post-conflict and natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction”. In response the Executive Director prepared two reports, contained in documents HSP/GC/20/4 and HSP/GC/20/5, on the two themes. The first report, document HSP/GC/20/4, explores issues related to enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance in support of the goals of the Habitat Agenda. Various initiatives that have been taken in different parts of the world to promote civil society involvement through inclusive political processes and structures are highlighted, and obstacles and constraints in promoting civil society participation are considered. It was found that the long-term social and economic benefits of greater civil society involvement outweigh the costs, and issues for further consideration are elaborated in the light of this realization.

42. The second report, document HSP/GC/20/5, observes that disasters can provide opportunities for sustainable development, but stresses that efforts need to be integrated into long-term development strategies. The task of mobilizing sustainable relief and reconstruction, and the need to transform disasters into opportunities for sustainable development, and explored through an examination of the associated problems and possibilities, including vulnerability, risk mitigation, planning and response. The aim of the report is to elaborate guidelines that provide a framework for development-oriented sustainable relief and reconstruction activities.

43. In addition, the Secretariat has prepared a report, contained in document HSP/20/8, on proposed themes for the twenty-first and subsequent sessions of the Governing Council, containing proposals by the Executive Director for consideration by the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

## **J. Resolution 19/10: Rural-urban linkages and sustainable urbanization**

44. In resolution 19/10 the Executive Director was requested to raise awareness of the direct relationship between positive urban-rural development linkages and sustainable urbanization, to disseminate good practices and policies on mutually beneficial urban-rural development relationships (which could be replicated in other countries), and to help develop the capacity of central Governments and local authorities in that area, particularly in developing countries.

45. In response to that resolution, UN-Habitat convened two major international meetings to share and disseminate experiences and lessons learned on the issue. The aim was to enhance the awareness of national social and economic development strategists, decision makers, policy advisers and rural-urban development actors of the need for a more balanced territorial development in rural and urban areas. The first was the International Conference on Sustainable Urbanization Strategies, held in Weihai, China, from 3 to 5 November 2003, and the second the Interregional Conference on the Urban-Rural Linkages Approach to Development, held Nairobi from 1 to 3 October 2004.

46. The conferences were organized in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, including China, UNEP, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). Critical urban-rural linkage issues identified included: the unnecessary dichotomy between urban and rural development in national development

processes; the environmental ramifications of the urban-rural development relationship, including the footprints of cities on rural areas, and how best to internalize negative externalities; and the issue of minimizing gaps between urban and rural areas in terms of income-earning opportunities and livelihoods. World Habitat Day 2004 was built around the theme “Cities: Engines of Rural Development”, with the central celebration hosted by the Government of Kenya at the UN-Habitat/Government of Kenya Kibera slum upgrading site in Nairobi.

47. In summary, the conferences recommended:

(a) That a strategic regional planning approach should be adopted to stimulate regional economic growth, promote balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural linkages, increase investment and employment opportunities and facilitate the absorption of rural-urban migration (while maintaining a good quality of life in both urban and rural areas);

(b) That a regional hierarchy of cities, towns and villages should be drawn up, to optimize the economic advantage of place, create magnetic alternatives to the primate cities by linking their economic activities with surrounding countryside, and accommodate the growing living and production activities; and

(c) That new partnerships, networking and opportunities should be developed for dialogue and cooperation between local and national governments, and their international and civil society partners, on sustainable urbanization development issues, policies and strategies.

#### K. Resolution 19/11: **Strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation**

48. At its nineteenth session, the Governing Council deliberated on appropriate means of implementing General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001 on strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. The Council acknowledged the efforts of UN-Habitat to elicit the support of Member States and welcomed the increase in voluntary contributions to the Foundation.

49. Deliberations resulted in the adoption of resolution 19/11, on strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, calling for an incremental approach. In that resolution the Council requested the Executive Director to continue strengthening the Foundation so it would be able to provide finance:

(a) To support the core staff and programmes of UN-Habitat;

(b) To mobilize seed capital, domestic and other financial resources for shelter and related infrastructure, with priority to needs of poor households; and

(c) To provide technical support services to foster and improve effectiveness in the mobilization and utilization of domestic resources for improvement in human settlements, and to assist countries at both national and local levels in the preparation and implementation of projects.

50. The resolution further requested the Executive Director to continue working with the multilateral financial institutions, the private sector, and other relevant partners to field-test financing models through pilot projects, and to develop longer-term programmes that mobilize resources to enhance access to affordable credit for slum upgrading and other pro-poor development activities.

51. Significant progress has been made in implementing resolution 19/11. The international community has extended \$20 million in financial support to UN-Habitat, to mobilize domestic resources for shelter and infrastructure. With funding from the bilateral development agencies of the Governments of the United Kingdom and Sweden, in September 2004 UN-Habitat established a new global facility within the Human Settlements Financing Division (subprogramme 4), known as the Slum Upgrading Facility. The central objective of the facility is to mobilize domestic capital for slum upgrading in municipalities in developing countries. The Slum Upgrading Facility is designed to achieve this objective by facilitating links among local actors and by packaging the financial, technical and political elements of development projects to attract such investment. The facility is piloting field projects in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania which seek to leverage funds from local commercial banks in the pilot countries. The ability to leverage such funds from

commercial banks for housing and municipal infrastructure is considered a critical function for any sustainable pro-poor housing finance mechanism.

52. Member States have significantly increased voluntary contributions to the Foundation so as to provide finance to support the core staff and programmes of UN-Habitat. The secretariat recorded a 50 per cent increase in overall voluntary contributions from the biennium 2002–2003 to the biennium 2004–2005, based on actual pledges, and projects a further 64 per cent increase for the biennium 2006–2007. While overall contributions are up significantly, the core staff and programmes of UN-Habitat lack sufficient general purpose (non-earmarked) funding. General-purpose contributions rose a modest 10 per cent, while special purpose (earmarked) contributions rose by over 120 per cent. The secretariat welcomes the commitment of Governments in a position to do so to extend multi-year non-earmarked funding.

53. With support from the international community the secretariat has successfully strengthened the Foundation to mobilize seed capital, provide technical support services, and field test approaches through field pilot projects through the establishment of the slum upgrading facility, in line with resolution 19/11, paragraphs 3 (b), 3 (c) and 4. In September 2004, the Human Settlements Financing Division initiated the design phase of the Slum Upgrading Facility by developing a project pipeline in 10 countries in West Africa, East Africa, South Asia and South-East Asia. These efforts have been undertaken in close cooperation with the World Bank, members of the Cities Alliance, Slum Dwellers International, United Cities and Local Governments and commercial banks, through the facility's consultative board, which is made up of representatives of these institutions.

54. Progress in implementing resolution 19/11 is also the subject of a separate Governing Council report on strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (HSP/GC/20/8).

**L. Resolution 19/12: Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities**

55. In resolution 19/12, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to take further measures to intensify dialogue on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and the second session of the World Urban Forum, with the aim of developing recommendations to be presented to Governing Council at its twentieth session and documenting best practices. Resolution 19/12 further endorsed the proposal made by the Executive Director to establish a multi-disciplinary ad hoc advisory panel on decentralization to support the dialogue process. It also requested the Executive Director to initiate efforts to mobilize additional extrabudgetary resources for the ad hoc advisory panel's work. A report on follow-up to resolution 19/12, including draft guidelines, is before the Governing Council in document HSP/GC/20/7.

**M. Resolution 19/13: Enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

56. In resolution 19/13, the Executive Director was requested to develop a strategy on enhancing the engagement of youth and youth organizations in the work of UN-Habitat, to be submitted to the Governing Council at its twentieth session. In resolution 9/13 UN-Habitat is also requested to enhance the engagement of youth in urban governance, to address the problem of youth at risk, to focus on capacity-building and poverty alleviation, to participate in the Secretary General's initiative on youth employment, to develop a global partnership initiative on urban youth development in Africa, and to establish an interim youth consultative mechanism. A report on follow-up to resolution 19/13 is before the Governing Council in document HSP/GC/20/INF/8.

**N. Resolution 19/14: World Urban Forum, Barcelona 2004**

57. The second session of the World Urban Forum, on the theme "Cities: crossroads of cultures, inclusiveness and integration?" was convened by UN-Habitat in Barcelona, Spain, from 13 to 17 September 2004 and hosted by the Government of Spain and the City of Barcelona. The Forum was held during the Universal Forum of Cultures, an international event in celebration of cultural diversity, sustainable development and an ethos of peace. Approximately 4,400 delegates, representing Governments, local authorities, non-government organizations and Habitat Agenda partners, participated in the plenary sessions, dialogue sessions and networking events.

58. Of particular importance was the balanced level of participation from civil society, national Governments and local governments, which constituted 25 per cent, 18 per cent and 17 per cent of participants respectively. This high level of participation was complemented by 203 representatives from the private sector, 201 academics, and 27 parliamentarians. Discussions at the Forum were graced by the presence of a number of leading personalities, including: the late Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister of Lebanon, who received the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Special Citation for Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the USSR, President Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland, Mr. John Ashe, Chair of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and Mr. Jeffrey Sachs from the Millennium Project, as well as a host of prominent city mayors and celebrated thinkers.

59. At the opening ceremony, world leaders and mayors pointed out that rapid urbanization was one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. Many speakers called for more support for local authorities from the United Nations system and Governments, emphasizing the need for a renewed drive for decentralization and expressing concern about the current situation of the poor, who lacked access to infrastructure and essential services. The importance of the Millennium Development Goals framework for international development was reiterated, with recognition of the need for more action at the local level.

60. In line with the Governing Council's decision to rotate the venue of the World Urban Forum, as a means of increasing participation from the regions, 65 per cent of delegates came from Europe and countries with economies in transition, constituting a far greater percentage than that obtaining at most UN-Habitat meetings. In all, 11 per cent of participants were from Africa, 9 per cent from Latin America and the Caribbean, 7 per cent from Asia, 5 per cent from North America and 3 per cent from the Arab States.

61. At its second session the World Urban Forum was witness to intensive debates on city management, finance, housing and infrastructure, sustainability, inclusiveness and urban risk. In addition, 92 networking events were held, most of which were organized by Habitat Agenda partners. Yet another achievement of the World Urban Forum was to integrate the arts, culture and youth firmly into its structure. The Oscar award-winning film director Fernando Trueba presented the world premiere of "Milagro de Candeal" ("The Miracle of Candeal") before an audience of 4,000. Some 20,000 residents from the city of Barcelona joined delegates in listening to the music of Carlinos Brown, who has applied his immeasurable talent to transform the lives of slum dwellers and children in an otherwise depressed community. A highly memorable "rap summit" was held by hip-hop performers from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark (Greenland), Kenya, Norway, South Africa, Spain and the United States of America.

62. Four partners' dialogues were held, to consider the issues of cultures, innovative experiences in implementing the Habitat Agenda and attaining the Millennium Development Goals, urban governance, and decentralization and the strengthening of local government. Five thematic dialogues covered issues of urban poverty, financing slum upgrading, urban sustainability, private sector participation in water and sanitation delivery, and urban disaster and reconstruction.

63. In particular, the role of civil society was highlighted and the function performed by local governments as partners for development was critically examined, with close attention to modalities for improving urban governance. In furthering the Programme's commitment to the promotion of local authorities, an agreement of cooperation was signed by UN-Habitat and UCLG. The work of the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED) highlighting the linkages between decentralization, democracy and participation, demonstrated the indispensable need for partnerships between local government, the private sector and civil society.

64. Speakers in the closing session paid tribute to UN-Habitat, the Government of Spain and the city of Barcelona for the success of the Forum. They reiterated the key challenges facing a rapidly urbanizing world and reaffirmed global commitments that had been made, particularly the Millennium Development Goals. Special emphasis was placed on the need to devote more attention to combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to eliminating gender disparities, and to ensuring the close involvement of young people in such endeavours. In the final statement, the Minister of Housing of Spain, the host country, described the World Urban Forum as the jewel in the crown of the Universal Forum of Cultures of Barcelona.

65. A report on the World Urban Forum and the outcome of the thematic dialogues and networking sessions is before the Governing Council in information document HSP/GC/20/2/Add.2.

O. **Resolution 19/15: Countries with economies in transition**

66. Implementation of resolution 19/15 was carried out with limited resources, imposing constraints on the scale of activities, including missions. Nevertheless, considerable progress was made in extending and improving the country presence of UN-Habitat, using all available means.

67. UN-Habitat placed among its priorities the re-establishment of contact with existing national Habitat offices, originally created during preparations for the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, with a view to strengthening relations with those countries. Contact with offices in Belarus and Georgia has been restored, advisory support and assistance was provided to the emerging Habitat office in the Republic of Moldova, and in response to requests from the representatives of the Governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan information was provided on how to revitalize the Habitat offices in those countries. Negotiations with the Government of Poland about the establishment of a regional office in Warsaw are at an advanced stage. Upon successful completion of this process, that new office would play a key role in the regional strategy.

68. As contact with those offices was re-established, their projected roles were outlined, with a view to harnessing their valuable potential for the development of a range of activities aimed at providing advice to Governments and local authorities on the challenges of urban development during the period of transformation. Collaboration with local authorities and their associations, researchers and other partners is also under way. Thus, interagency collaboration has been established with UNDP Poland and potential alliances are being explored with the Committee on Human Settlements of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). There are growing contacts with non-governmental organizations working on gender and youth issues in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, while new links are being developed in the other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

69. The countries with economies in transition are involved in many UN-Habitat global activities. Government representatives are among the members of UNACLA and AGRED, and they actively participated in the inaugural conference of UNACLA in May 2004, at which the mayor of Kazan, Russian Federation, was elected Vice-President for the Euro-Asia region. They are also involved in the new Human Settlements Network (HS-Net) inaugurated during the Expert Group Meeting on the Human Right to Adequate Housing in November 2004.

70. UN-Habitat continues publishing its manuals in the languages of the countries with economies in transition. Several such translations are currently under preparation, including a Russian version of the manual of the Sustainable Cities Programme (to be enriched with the findings of locally implemented projects) and a Georgian translation of the "Building NGO/CBO Capacity" series. There is interest in translating *Habitat Debate* into Russian for dissemination in Russia and other interested countries.

71. Strategic priorities identified for the region include poverty alleviation (high poverty growth is associated with the current reforms and represents a new phenomenon in the region); multi-dimensional housing sector reforms (including finance and the dilapidation of multi-story housing stock); access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and other basic services; deterioration of existing infrastructure; pro-poor land management; and revenue generation at the local level. Activities currently under way include several projects funded by the Government of the Russian Federation, initiatives in Kosovo mounted under the Governance and Development Planning Programme, and the preparatory phase for the programme for the settlement and integration of refugees in Serbia, supported by the Government of Italy.

P. **Resolution 19/16: Women's roles and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading**

72. UN-Habitat has made progress in implementing resolution 19/16 on women's roles and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading, particularly in the areas of urban governance, training and capacity-building, monitoring, secure tenure and land rights, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

73. Mainstreaming gender in country operations and in post-conflict situations is a challenging endeavour, requiring careful consideration from all perspectives. The equal involvement and consideration of women and men is critical for the reduction of vulnerability and the effective management of disasters. Issues such as inclusive governance, land and property matters,

inheritance, income-generating activities and capacity-building, among others, are all of crucial importance in the process of sustainable recovery.

74. To this end, in 2003, gender-mainstreaming strategies were developed for Iraq, Kosovo and Somalia. These strategies provide overall direction programmes in each country. The UN-Habitat Kosovo office has a designated gender focal point working closely with other agencies under the framework of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Training of municipal authorities and urban planners to support and promote mainstreaming in urban planning and management has been carried out. Train-the-trainer workshops on leadership and management, with a focus on gender awareness and analysis, were conducted in Hargeisa, Somalia, in October 2003 and January 2004.

75. Among activities conducted in Africa and the Arab States, attention is drawn to the gender review of disaster management in Africa undertaken jointly by the Disaster Management Programme and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) to examine the extent to which gender issues have been integrated into disaster management policies and practices in Africa. Gender was one of the four areas covered by the urban sector survey carried out by the Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States in 2004, with preliminary findings indicating, among other things, a general lack of gender policies and programmes in municipal planning and development. Gender indicators for the Africa region are being developed. The interregional conference on urban-rural linkages held in Nairobi from 1 to 4 October 2004 considered case-studies on the impact of rural-urban migration on women's economic and social empowerment and gender relations. The Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme has included gender as a criterion for the Dubai Awards and as a database search category. A project on empowering urban women entrepreneurs through housing development and land rights in East Africa aims to improve incomes and the living environment. Support has been provided to East African women handicrafts producers in promoting and selling their products in external markets, an initiative which was launched at the World Urban Forum.

76. In the Asia-Pacific region, UN-Habitat supported the transitional Islamic Government of Afghanistan in the design and implementation of its national solidarity programme, and part of the strategy has been to encourage women to take a leading role in the management of basic services. A partnership has been established with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, to provide gender training to national solidarity programme staff in selected provinces in Afghanistan. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, working with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the UNDP Urban Governance Initiative, the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and the CITYNET network of local authorities in Asia and the Pacific, has initiated a contest for gender responsive local governments and women-friendly cities in the Asian region. The three award-winning cities were Cebu **City**, Philippines (combating domestic violence), Naga **City**, Philippines (women's development code), and Visakhapatnam, India (literacy for poor women).

77. In Latin America and the Caribbean, a programme is under way which aims at sustaining gender equality and women's empowerment within human settlements and urban development. Training and advocacy materials have been developed, including capacity-building modules for grass-roots participation in policy development, a legal guide on the right to adequate housing, a toolkit on gender competence, and a guidebook on cities and equity. The second International Conference on Safer Cities for Women and Girls was held in Bogotá, Colombia, in November 2004.

78. A programme on the internal strengthening of gender mainstreaming has been initiated. A handbook on mainstreaming gender in human settlements will be developed and pre-tested at a workshop in 2005. In addition, since May 2004, gender impact assessment has become an integral part of project planning, management and evaluation.

**Q. Resolution 19/17: Least developed countries**

79. In resolution 19/17 the Governing Council requested UN-Habitat to continue to give special attention to least developed countries in its programme activities.

80. Over the reporting period the global programmes and regional offices expanded their activities in those countries, to support attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Regional offices made administrative arrangements to place Habitat Programme managers in all least developed countries in their respective regions. At the end of 2004, 30 Habitat Programme managers were in place and active.

81. From an operational point of view, UN-Habitat has been active through its programmes and regional offices. In the Africa and the Arab States region, it is implementing action-oriented regional urban sector profile studies in such countries as Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Liberia, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. In December 2004, the European Commission awarded UN-Habitat a three-year contract to implement a Somalia urban development programme. UN-Habitat is the lead implementing agency, steering collaboration with UNDP, the International Labour Organization and the Italian non-governmental organization consortium Società Italiana per la Organizzazione Internazionale. The programme is scheduled to be launched in April 2005.

82. Activities include the sustainable settlements recovery programme, the rehabilitation of refugee-affected areas and the planned shelter and infrastructure rehabilitation programme for internally displaced persons in Darfur, Sudan. UN-Habitat participated in the multidisciplinary United Nations mission to Haiti, in the course of which four intervention sectors were identified for the Security Council report: local governance; water supply and sanitation; settlements upgrading and livelihoods development, and risk and disaster vulnerability reduction. At the request of OCHA, in December 2003, UN-Habitat prepared inputs for the consolidated appeal process in two selected sectors in Liberia: protection of land and property rights of displaced populations and establishing a reconstruction strategy for the country.

83. Based on the needs expressed by Cape Verde, Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives and Sao Tome and Principe, UNEP, GEF and the UN-Habitat Disaster Management Programme have jointly developed a regional climate change adaptation project entitled: "Programme for integrated vulnerability reduction and adaptation planning in the coastal areas of the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Atlantic and South China Sea (AIMS) group of countries". The objective is to reduce the vulnerability of urban coastal zones to the impacts of climate change in support of long-term sustainable development.

84. In 2004, UN-Habitat and the Africa outreach programme of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR-Africa) jointly undertook a regional review of disaster management policy and practice in Africa. The review focused on how policy and practice have been developed, the role that women have played and the level to which gender has been integrated. Case-studies were undertaken in Djibouti, Madagascar and Mozambique to deepen the understanding of policy and practice, and of gender issues that have an impact on disaster response management.

85. In Afghanistan, UN-Habitat organized the first land workshop held on urban land and in Bangladesh preparatory activities have been initiated to launch the Campaign for Secure Tenure.

86. In Cambodia, a housing officer post was recently established as a result of the regional dialogue on housing rights convened in Bangkok, organized jointly by UN-Habitat, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Preparatory activities have also been initiated in Cambodia to launch the Campaign for Secure Tenure.

87. In Africa, the Campaign for Secure Tenure was launched in Burkina Faso in October 2004 and an action plan was put in place. In addition, in Eritrea, UN-Habitat has contributed to the formulation of a housing policy, and in Ethiopia the Cities without Slums programme has been initiated in Addis Ababa.

88. Other programmes under way in Africa during this reporting period include the Campaign for Secure Tenure in Senegal; the Cities without Slums programmes in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania; development of an appropriate land administration approach for one municipal area in Somalia; cooperation with the Research Division of the World Bank and the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment of Uganda to assess the cost and impact of an innovative approach to land administration, with a view to its possible scaling up and dissemination to other parts of Africa; and land law reform research for the capacity-building of local lawyers, in Zambia.

**R. Resolution 19/18: Human settlements development in the occupied Palestinian territories**

89. A report on progress in following up on this resolution is before the Council in document HSP/GC/20/2/Add.3, report of the Executive Director on human settlements development in the occupied Palestinian territories

#### **IV. Best practices**

##### **A. Resolution 19/3, paragraph 5: Promoting transparency and best practices to support the introduction of these tools in the curricula of relevant institutions**

90. UN-Habitat developed and disseminated 10 detailed case-studies on best practices and lessons learned in Latin America and a casebook on best practices in and the role of non-governmental organizations in implementing the Habitat Agenda in Africa. The focus of these case-studies is on urban governance, security of tenure, access to housing and basic services and poverty reduction. They are currently being used by a wide range of institutions for capacity-building, leadership development and advocacy in their respective regions. The Programme also developed a further 50 best practice and policy briefs in key areas.

##### **B. Resolution 19/5, paragraph 6: Developing effective policy guidelines and action plans**

91. UN-Habitat field-tested a methodology for the unpacking and assessment of pro-poor, gender-sensitive urban policies and enabling legislation in support of the Millennium Development Goals. This new tool was applied to a range of laws and policies on land-use planning, security of tenure for the urban poor, affordable urban health services, decentralization and urban governance, and urban safety and security. With the support of the Governments of Finland and the Netherlands and in partnership with UNDP, the tool was tested in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. This perception-based and participatory assessment process provided immediately usable data to inform policy-making and the legislative process.

##### **C. Resolution 19/10, paragraph 5: Disseminating good practices and policies on urban-rural development**

92. UN-Habitat identified and documented 10 examples of good practices and policies in urban-rural linkages and peri-urban development. These examples have been disseminated electronically in the form of best practice briefs under the heading: "Urban-rural continuum" and may be consulted at the web site: [www.bestpractices.org/briefs](http://www.bestpractices.org/briefs).

##### **D. Resolution 19/13, paragraphs 1 and 4: Youth consultative mechanism**

93. UN-Habitat launched "The Messengers of Truth Project" at the second session of the World Urban Forum during the global hip-hop summit. Youth groups, hip-hop performers and representatives of the music industry attended this summit, which adopted a framework declaration of principles and a call for action for mainstreaming youth participation and action in attaining the Millennium Development Goals. It calls on all spheres of government to involve urban youth in decisions affecting their livelihood. It also provides a set of guidelines and criteria for supporting youth development programmes and projects, so as to give young people a sense of ownership of such initiatives. It identifies priority areas of intervention, including skills training in the human settlements sector, consultative processes and bridging the digital divide. In a parallel event, eleven individual performers and groups in Africa, Europe and the Americas were appointed UN-Habitat Messengers of Truth, to help the international community inform urban youth worldwide about the Millennium Development Goals.

94. In a follow-up activity, a one-day pre-convention workshop was held as part of the Residents' Convention for a Safer Nairobi. In all, 102 participants representing youth groups, government agencies, the Nairobi city council, international and non-governmental organizations discussed the potential of using urban music and hip-hop as a means of communicating with and



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reaching out to young people at risk and as an entry point for involving them in education and health services.

**E. Resolution 19/14, paragraph 4: Identification of new issues, the sharing of lessons learned, best practices and good policies**

95. UN-Habitat identified six innovative and promising policies in support of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. These policies were presented in the dialogue on urban realities and covered the areas of pro-poor land tenure in Brazil, access to housing in China, decentralization and urban governance in the Philippines, access to water by the urban poor in South Africa, preserving the urban cultural heritage and promoting social inclusion in Spain, and local economic development in Morocco. Each of the policies was illustrated by examples of good practices.

**F. Resolution 19/14, paragraph 12: Universal Forum of Cultures**

96. UN-Habitat helped design and implement exhibitions on best practices in urban water management for the entire duration of the Universal Forum on Cultures. The best practices exhibition featured over 60 practices from 55 countries, illustrating how people and their communities, local authorities and governments are implementing the Habitat Agenda and attaining the Millennium Development Goals. The water exhibition featured 15 major issues facing water, ranging from its supply and production to consumption and disposal. Both exhibits were designed with minimal text, using graphic, photographic and other visual means to bring issues and their potential solutions to the general public.

**G. Resolution 19/15, paragraph 2: Incorporating countries with economies in transition in activities of global programmes**

97. Three institutions that work closely with countries with economies in transition have teamed up with UN-Habitat. The first of these is the Far East Academy for Economics and Management based in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, which has joined the Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme and is providing training, advisory services and outreach in urban management and urban economic development to countries in the Far East and Central Asia. The second is the Prague Institute based in the Czech Republic, which focuses on metropolitan development and strategic planning and works, among other places, in Eastern and Central Europe. The third is the Technical University of Bremen, focusing on environmentally friendly building design and environmental planning and management, which has also joined the Programme and will cover as part of its remit the countries of Northern Europe.

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