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**Coordination matters: matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Governing Council**

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**Report of the Executive Director**

*Summary*

The present report identifies matters arising out of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions which call for action by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), or are of direct relevance to its work. The report describes, where necessary, the activities and substantive contributions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in response to those resolutions and, where necessary, seeks guidance from the Governing Council as to further follow-up actions.

The full texts of all the resolutions mentioned in the report are being circulated to the Governing Council in document HSP/GC/20/BD/3.

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\* HSP/GC/20/1.

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## **I. Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

1. At its fifty-eighth session, on 23 December 2003, the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/227 on the rules of procedures of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in which it adopted the draft rules of procedure.
2. The action taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 58/227 is detailed in the progress report of the Executive Director (HSP/GC/20/2) on the activities of UN-Habitat.

## **II. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of UN-Habitat**

3. On 23 December 2003, at its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/226, on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in which, among other things, it:
  - (a) Took note of the report of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat on the work of its nineteenth session and the report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of UN-Habitat;
  - (b) Recognized that Governments had the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and stressed that the international community should fully implement its commitments to support the Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts, through the provision of the requisite resources, capacity-building, the transfer of technology and the creation of an international enabling environment;
  - (c) Encouraged Governments to include issues pertaining to shelter and sustainable human settlements and urban poverty in their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they existed;
  - (d) Urged Governments to promote pro-poor investments in services and infrastructure, in particular water and sanitation, in order to improve living environments, in particular in slums and informal settlements;
  - (e) Encouraged Governments to establish local, national and regional urban observatories and to provide financial and substantive support to UN-Habitat for the further development of methodologies for data collection, analysis and dissemination;
  - (f) Encouraged Governments and UN-Habitat to continue to promote partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners, including women's groups and academic and professional groups, in order to empower them, within the legal framework and conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, as well as encourage and enable participation by youth in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;
  - (g) Encouraged UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with other relevant agencies within the United Nations system, in particular members and observers of the United Nations Development Group and the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;
  - (h) Requested UN-Habitat to strengthen further its efforts to make the Cities Alliance initiative an effective means for the implementation of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, namely, adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world and noted with appreciation the efforts by the Cities Alliance partnership between the World Bank and UN-Habitat, and other donor countries, to continue to provide an important forum for policy coordination and development, and to provide support for the preparation of pro-poor city development strategies and slum-upgrading programmes;

(i) Invited the Secretary-General to incorporate the assessment of the progress towards the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 in his report on the review in 2005 of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

(j) Welcomed the increase in the general-purpose contributions of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the year 2003;

(k) Called for continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions to the Foundation, and invited Governments to provide multi-year funding to support programme implementation;

(l) Requested UN-Habitat to collaborate with the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in the preparations for the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to promote a fruitful discussion on the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements;

(m) Noted that the sessions of the World Urban Forum, a non-legislative technical forum, to be held in Barcelona in 2004 and in Vancouver in 2006, offered an opportunity to experts to exchange experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the field of human settlements;

(n) Invited donor countries to support the participation of representatives of the developing countries in the second and future sessions of the World Urban Forum;

(o) Requested UN-Habitat, as the focal point for human settlements development and for coordination of human settlements activities within the United Nations system, to work towards coordination of human settlements issues as inputs to the overall coordination of humanitarian efforts, including through its participation in the consideration by the Economic and Social Council, in the near future, of the issue of the transition from relief to development; and

(p) Requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of resolution 58/226.

4. The action taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 58/226 is detailed in the Executive Director's progress report, contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

### **III. Implementation of Agenda 21, the programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

5. On 23 December 2003, at its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/218, on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in reporting to the Commission at its twelfth session on the state of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on the basis of inputs from all levels, as specified by the Commission at its eleventh session, to submit, one report on each of the issues of water, sanitation and human settlement, to be addressed in an integrated manner during the session, which should contain a detailed review of the progress of implementation relating to those issues, taking into account, as appropriate, their interlinkages.

6. In the same resolution, the Assembly also invited donor countries to consider supporting the participation of experts from developing countries in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlement in the next review and policy sessions of the Commission.

7. The actions taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 58/218 are detailed in the Executive Director's progress report, contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

#### **IV. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the international conference on financing for development**

8. On 23 December 2003, at its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/230, on follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Emphasized the link between financing for development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration; and

(b) Invited the regional commissions, with the support of regional development banks, as appropriate, and in cooperation with United Nations funds and programmes, to use the opportunity of their regular intergovernmental sessions to hold special meetings within existing resources, as necessary, to address the regional and interregional aspects of the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development and thus help to bridge any gaps between the national, regional and international dimensions of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and to serve as inputs to the high-level dialogue as well as to the spring meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

9. The actions taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 58/230 are detailed in the Executive Director's progress report, contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

#### **V. Third United Nations conference on the least developed countries**

10. On 23 December 2003, at its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/228, on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Urged the least developed countries and their development partners to make the Programme of Action an effective tool for the implementation of the poverty reduction strategies at the national level for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration; and

(b) Invited the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and all other international organizations, within their respective mandates, to support as a priority the implementation of the Programme of Action, including programmes of financial and technical cooperation devoted to the least developed countries in support of their national development programmes, including their poverty reduction strategies.

11. The actions taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 58/228 are detailed in the Executive Director's progress report, contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

#### **VI. Women in development**

12. On 23 December 2003, at its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/206 on women in development, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Called upon Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to take effective action to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

(b) Recognized the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with civil society, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;

(c) Further recognized the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to incorporate a gender perspective in policies and decision-making, and encouraged all Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders to assist and

support developing countries in integrating a gender perspective in all aspects of policy-making, including through the provision of technical assistance and financial resources;

(d) Stressed the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities that will generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

(e) Urged States to design and revise laws that ensured that women were accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital and appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

(f) Stressed the importance of collecting all relevant information needed on the role of women in development and statistics disaggregated by sex by all countries, encouraged the relevant entities of the United Nations to support national efforts, especially those of developing countries, and in that regard invited developed countries, relevant entities of the United Nations and other international organizations to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems, and encouraged all Governments and international organizations, including the United Nations system, to collect information needed on the role of women in development and the disaggregation by sex of all statistics; and

(g) Urged all Governments and international organizations, including the United Nations system, to incorporate a gender perspective in their planning and evaluation, including in common country assessments, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and poverty reduction strategy papers, where they existed.

13. The actions taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 58/206 are detailed in the Executive Director's progress report, contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

## **VII. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations conference on human settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

14. On 22 December 2004, at its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/239, on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of UN-Habitat, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Called for continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and invited Governments to provide multi-year funding to support programme implementation and also called for increased, non-earmarked contributions to the Foundation;

(b) Requested the Executive Director to continue to work with the World Bank Group, regional development banks, other development banks, the private sector and other relevant partners to field-test approaches through pilot projects and to develop longer term programmes to mobilize resources to increase the supply of affordable credit for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition;

(c) Called upon the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and other operational activities of UN-Habitat for the effective implementation of its field programmes;

(d) Recognized the important role of UN-Habitat regional offices and personnel in providing operational support to developing countries and in that regard called upon Governments to strengthen and support financially the regional offices in order to expand operational support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(e) Called upon UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with the other organizations of the United Nations system, integrating UN-Habitat staff as appropriate into existing United Nations country offices;

(f) Encouraged Governments to establish local, national and regional urban observatories and to provide financial and substantive support to UN-Habitat for the further development of methodologies for data collection, analysis and dissemination;

(g) Encouraged Member States as well as Habitat Agenda partners to provide support for the preparation of the UN-Habitat flagship reports, the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of World's Cities* report, on a biennial basis so as to raise awareness of human settlements and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world;

(h) Encouraged Governments to support the UN-Habitat Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign for Urban Governance as important tools for, among other things, promoting administration of land and property rights, in accordance with national circumstances, and enhancing access to affordable credit by the urban poor;

(i) Invited Governments to continue to promote linkages between urban and rural areas in line with the Habitat Agenda, which recognized that cities and rural areas were interdependent economically, socially and environmentally;

(j) Encouraged Governments and UN-Habitat to continue to promote partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners, including women's groups and academic and professional groups, in order to empower them, within the legal framework and conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world and also encouraged Governments to support and enable the participation of youth in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through social, cultural and economic activities at the city level and other national and local-level activities;

(k) Further encouraged Governments to include issues pertaining to shelter, sustainable human settlements and urban poverty in their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they existed;

(l) Requested UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to continue to support the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development and encouraged UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other relevant agencies in the United Nations system in that field;

(m) Invited the Secretary-General to incorporate the assessment of progress made towards the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 in his report on the review in 2005 of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration; and

(n) Called upon UN-Habitat and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to work together closely in the preparations for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to ensure a fruitful policy discussion of the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements.

15. Information on the actions taken by UN-Habitat relevant to the implementation of resolution 59/239 is contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

## **VIII. Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system**

16. On 22 December 2004, at its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/250, on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Requested the organizations of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to respond to national development plans, policies and priorities, which constituted the only viable frame of reference for programming their operational activities at the country level, and to pursue full integration of the operational activities for development at the country-level with national planning and programming, under the leadership of national Governments, at all stages of the process, while ensuring the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders at the national level;

(b) Welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General, through the members of the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as appropriate, to enhance the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system at the country level;

(c) Emphasized that increasing the financial contributions to the United Nations development system was key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in that regard recognized the mutually reinforcing links between increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries to eradicate poverty and achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development through operational activities for development and the overall resourcing of the United Nations development system;

(d) Invited the governing bodies of all organizations of the United Nations development system to address systematically the funding of their operational activities and to explore, within the context of their multi-year planning and related financial frameworks, where appropriate, additional sources of financial support and alternative funding modalities so as to secure, on a predictable, continuous and sustained basis, the critical mass of resources required to ensure adequate functioning and pursuit of long-term development objectives;

(e) Requested the Secretary-General to improve his annual statistical compendium to the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council by adding a multi-year perspective, fully incorporating available information and statistics;

(f) Urged all organizations of the United Nations development system to intensify inter-agency information sharing at the system-wide level on good practices and experiences gained, results achieved, benchmarks and indicators, monitoring and evaluation criteria concerning their capacity-building activities;

(g) Encouraged all organizations of the United Nations development system to include reporting on their capacity-building activities in their annual reports to their respective governing bodies;

(h) Requested the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to examine ways to simplify further their rules and procedures and, in that context, to accord the issue of simplification and harmonization high priority and to take concrete steps, in the following areas: rationalization of country presence through common premises and co-location of members of United Nations country team; implementation of the joint office model; common shared support services, including security, information technology, telecommunications, travel, banking and administrative and financial procedures, including for procurement; harmonization of the principles of cost recovery policies, including that of full cost recovery; alignment of the regional technical support structures and regional bureaux at headquarters level, including their regional coverage; and to take further simplification and harmonization measures;

(i) Recognized that, in spite of those efforts, participation of the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations development system in country-level operational activities for development and coordination mechanisms still differed in level, quality and intensity, and that for some organizations it was inadequate, and in that context called upon the United Nations development system to improve its country-level coordination so as to optimize its support to national development efforts, at the request of national authorities;

(j) Called on the United Nations system to draw from its accumulated experience in all pertinent economic, social and other domains and to facilitate the access of developing countries to the services available within the system on the basis of its comparative advantages and expertise;

(k) Called upon the United Nations development system to foster an inclusive approach in promoting inter-agency collaboration, both at the country and headquarters levels, and requested the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group, to take the necessary steps to secure a more participatory involvement of the United Nations development system in the country-level operations and their coordination mechanisms, including through promotion, decentralization, the delegation of authority and multi-year programming, which would facilitate their participation in country-level coordination mechanisms;

(l) Stressed the importance of the common country assessment as the common analytical tool of the United Nations system at the country level, including the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other United Nations agencies with no country representation or limited country-level presence, which should contribute their accumulated analytical and normative experience so as to enable the use of all capacities available within the United Nations system;

(m) Requested the Secretary-General, through the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, in consultation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that United Nations Development Group agencies with multi-year programmes as well as the entities of the Secretariat that carried on operational activities in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, fully aligned their respective programming and monitoring with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and also took further steps to harmonize their programming cycles and to synchronize them as far as possible with the national programming instruments, in particular the national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they existed;

(n) Urged the United Nations system to provide further financial, technical and organizational support for the resident coordinator system, and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure that resident coordinators had the necessary resources to fulfil their role effectively;

(o) Invited the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to consider means to strengthen their country-level capacities, including through complementary measures at their headquarters;

(p) Requested the United Nations development system to conduct evaluations of its operations at the country-level, in close consultation with national Governments, and in that context stressed the need to assist Governments in the development of national evaluation capacities, through, among other measures, better use of lessons learned from past activities at the country level;

(q) Called upon the organizations of the United Nations development system, its regional commissions and other regional and subregional entities, as appropriate and consistent with their mandates, to intensify their cooperation and adopt more collaborative approaches to support country-level development initiatives at the request of recipient countries, in particular through closer collaboration within the resident coordinator system and by improving mechanisms for access to the technical capacities of the United Nations system at the regional and subregional levels;

(r) Invited the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to give greater and more systematic consideration to the regional and subregional dimensions of development cooperation and to promote measures for more intensive inter-agency collaboration at the regional and subregional levels, facilitating inter-country exchanges of experience and promoting both intraregional and interregional cooperation, as appropriate; and

(s) Requested the organizations of the system to strengthen interdepartmental and inter-agency coordination to ensure an integrated, coherent and coordinated approach to assistance at the country level, which took account of the complexity of challenges that countries in those circumstances faced and the country-specific character of those challenges.

17. Information on the actions taken by UN-Habitat relevant to the implementation of resolution 59/250 is contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

## **IX. Implementation of Agenda 21, the programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

18. On 22 December 2004, at its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/227, on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Encouraged Governments to participate, at the appropriate level, with representatives from the relevant departments and agencies in water, sanitation and human settlements, as well as finance, in the intergovernmental preparatory meeting and the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(b) Invited donor countries to consider supporting the participation of experts from developing countries in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements in the thirteenth session of the Commission;



(c) Took note with interest *of* the establishment of the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation by the Secretary-General, and looked forward to its contribution to the mobilization of efforts and resources towards the implementation of the commitments, goals and targets agreed upon in those areas;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General, in reporting to the Commission at its thirteenth session on the state of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on the basis of appropriate inputs from all levels, to submit thematic reports on each of the three issues contained in the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements, taking into account their interlinkages, while addressing the cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission at its eleventh session;

(e) Requested the Commission, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and as specified by the Commission at its eleventh session, to examine the cross-cutting issues related to the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements;

(f) Stressed the importance of the success of the Commission at its thirteenth session in:

(i) Taking policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation in the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements; and

(ii) Mobilizing further action by all implementation actors to overcome obstacles and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

19. Information on the actions taken by UN-Habitat relevant to the implementation of resolution 59/227 is contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

## **X. Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the international decade for action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources**

20. On 22 December 2004, at its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/228, on activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Encouraged Member States, the Secretariat, organizations of the United Nations system and major groups to continue their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Welcomed the work of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and looked forward to the upcoming thirteenth session of the Commission on the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements;

(c) Invited the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions in organizing the activities of the Decade, taking into account the results of the International Year of Freshwater and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions;

(d) Called upon the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system to step up their efforts to deliver a coordinated response in order to make the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, a decade of delivering promises through the use of existing resources and voluntary funds; and

(e) Noted with interest the partnership initiatives on water and sanitation undertaken within the framework of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up and in accordance with the criteria and guidelines adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session.

21. Information on the actions taken by UN-Habitat relevant to the implementation of resolution 59/228 is contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

## **XI. International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development**

22. On 20 December 2004, at its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/212, on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Stressed, in that context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the provision of humanitarian assistance through all phases of a disaster, from relief and mitigation to development, including the provision of adequate resources;

(b) Emphasized the importance of enhanced international cooperation, including through the United Nations and regional organizations, to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities and effectively and efficiently to predict, prepare for and respond to natural disasters;

(c) Called upon States, the United Nations and other relevant actors, as appropriate, to assist in addressing knowledge gaps in disaster management and risk reduction by identifying ways of improving systems and networks for the collection and analysis of information on disasters, vulnerability and risk to facilitate informed decision-making; and

(d) Encouraged in such operations the sharing of geographical data, including remotely sensed images and geographic information system and global positioning system data, among Governments, space agencies and relevant international humanitarian and development organizations, as appropriate, and noted in that context initiatives such as those undertaken by the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and the Global Disaster Information Network.

23. Information on the actions taken by UN-Habitat relevant to the implementation of resolution 59/212 is contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

## **XII. World survey on the role of women in development**

24. On 22 December 2004, at its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/248, on the world Survey on the role of women in development, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*,<sup>1</sup> which focused on women and international migration, and decided to consider the report at its sixtieth session under the sub-item entitled “Women in development”; and

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to update the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, noting that the survey should continue to focus on selected emerging development themes, to be identified at its sixtieth session, that had an impact on the role of women in the economy at the national, regional and international levels.

25. Information on the actions taken by UN-Habitat relevant to the implementation of resolution 59/248 is contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

## **XIII. Third United Nations conference on the least developed countries**

26. On 22 December 2004, at its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/244, on the third United Nations conference on the least developed countries, in which, among other things, it reiterated its request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure at the secretariat level the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the national, regional, subregional and global levels and in that context

<sup>1</sup> A/59/287 and Add.1.

requested the Secretary-General to engage the United Nations Development Group's team leaders, consistent with their respective mandates, in the coordinated implementation of activities of the Brussels Programme of Action.

27. Information on the actions taken by UN-Habitat relevant to the implementation of resolution 59/244 is contained in document HSP/GC/20/2.

#### **XIV. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244**

28. On 23 December 2004, at its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/272, on a review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244, in paragraph 1 (c) of which it decided that original versions of the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services not submitted to the General Assembly were, upon request, made available to any Member State.

29. The action taken by the General Assembly is hereby brought to the attention of the Governing Council for consideration at its twentieth session.

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