



**UN-HABITAT**



## **United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains - Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos  
P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi, KENYA. Telephone: (254-20) 7621234 Fax: (254-20) 7624266/7 (Central Office)  
Email: [infohabitat@unhabitat.org](mailto:infohabitat@unhabitat.org) Website: <http://www.unhabitat.org>

**20 January 2007**

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

#### **Twenty-first session (Nairobi, 16–20 April 2007)**

#### **Notification by the Executive Director**

##### **Dates, venue and participation**

1. The twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) will be held from 16 to 20 April 2007. The meeting will take place at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya. A copy of the provisional agenda for the meeting is attached herewith and will be followed, in due course, by other documentation.
2. The session will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 16 April 2007. Representatives and invited guests are kindly requested to be seated by 9.45 a.m.
3. A list of the members of the Governing Council for the year 2007 is attached to the present notification as annex I. In this regard, the Executive Director wishes to point out that, pursuant to rule 61 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, a State which, though not a member of the Governing Council, is a Member of the United Nations or a member of a specialized agency may participate in the deliberations of the Governing Council in the capacity of observer.

##### **Informal consultations**

4. In order to facilitate the work of the Governing Council, arrangements have been made for informal consultations to be held among the regional groups on various matters before the Governing Council, in particular the election of officers, on Sunday, 15 April, beginning at 11 a.m. The first issue of the *Journal* for the session, to be issued on Sunday, 15 April, will include information on the allocation of rooms for those meetings. Attention is drawn to the note on the geographical distribution of officers elected at previous sessions of the Governing Council, attached to the present notification as annex II.
5. In addition, it is expected that various partners, notably local authorities, parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations, will convene their own informal consultations, events and activities before and during the session. Detailed information regarding these consultations, events and activities will be communicated to all participants by the secretariat, as soon as it is available.

##### **Key issues to be discussed**

6. Among the key issues to be considered by the Governing Council at its forthcoming session are:
  - (a) UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013;

- (b) Strengthening of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
- (c) One special theme, on sustainable urbanization: local action for urban poverty reduction with an emphasis on finance and planning;
- (d) Work programme of UN-Habitat and proposed budget for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2008–2009.

7. Accordingly, the Executive Director would like to stress the importance of full participation at the session by all States. As a number of important resolutions pertaining to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda are expected to be made by the Governing Council, it is hoped that States will see the need for high-level, policy-making representation, as well as substantive representation, at the session.

8. The Executive Director wishes to bring to the attention of Governments resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, in which the Governing Council invited Governments to include in their delegations to future sessions of the Governing Council representatives of local authorities and relevant actors of civil society, particularly the private sector, non-governmental organizations and research organizations in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. The Executive Director wishes also to stress the importance to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, with regard to the roles of local authorities and members of civil society.

9. It should also be noted that, pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the Governing Council amended its rules of procedure to provide for the effective participation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations of the Governing Council. These new provisions are contained in rules 64–67 of the Governing Council's rules of procedure.

10. The Executive Director would also like to emphasize that both UN-Habitat and Member States benefit substantially if States include in their delegations their permanent representatives to the Programme or representatives of other focal points in Nairobi with whom UN-Habitat engages on a continuous basis. States are requested to inform the Executive Director of the composition of their delegations as soon as possible. In accordance with rule 16 of the Governing Council's rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives should be submitted to the Executive Director, at the latest, before the end of the first meeting of the session.

### **Organizational arrangements for the session**

11. Annexes III and IV to the present notification contain the Executive Director's suggestions concerning procedural and organizational aspects of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council and a suggested timetable, which have been elaborated in line with relevant recommendation contained in Governing Council resolution 20/21, while annex V contains a list of the agenda items for the session, with the corresponding pre-session documents.

12. Participants are encouraged to pre-register online at [www.unhabitat.org/gc21](http://www.unhabitat.org/gc21). Participation is restricted to Member States and local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners as described in paragraphs 3 and 9 above, respectively. On-site registration will take place from 1 p.m. on Thursday, 13 April 2007. Delegates from civil society organizations will be required to present evidence of their accreditation upon arrival at the United Nations offices in Nairobi.

13. Information for participants regarding such matters as accommodation, visas, medical requirements and other matters is being made available on the UN-Habitat website at [www.unhabitat.org/gc21](http://www.unhabitat.org/gc21). Specific inquiries regarding these or any other matters concerning the organizational aspects of the session should be directed to Mr. Rolf Wichmann and addressed as follows:

Mr. Rolf Wichmann  
Secretary to the Governing Council  
and Chief, External Relations and Inter-Governmental Affairs  
UN-Habitat  
P.O. Box 30030, 00100, Nairobi, Kenya  
[Rolf.Wichmann@unhabitat.org](mailto:Rolf.Wichmann@unhabitat.org)  
Tel. +254 20 7623066/65  
Fax: +254 20 762 4175

## Annex I

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

#### **Membership in 2007<sup>1</sup> (58 members)**

##### **African States (16)**

Burundi (2010)  
Congo (2007)  
Equatorial Guinea (2010)  
Ghana (2008)  
Kenya (2007)  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (2008)  
Mauritania (2010)  
Niger (2010)  
Nigeria (2007)  
Rwanda (2008)  
Senegal (2010)  
South Africa (2007)  
Swaziland (2007)  
Uganda (2008)  
United Republic of Tanzania (2008)  
Zimbabwe (2010)

##### **Latin American and Caribbean States (10)**

Antigua and Barbuda (2008)  
Argentina (2010)  
Chile (2010)  
Costa Rica (2007)  
Grenada (2010)  
Haiti (2008)  
Mexico (2007)  
Paraguay (2007)  
Trinidad and Tobago (2007)  
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2010)

##### **Eastern European States (6)**

Belarus (2007)  
Bulgaria (2007)  
Czech Republic (2008)  
Poland (2010)  
Russian Federation (2010)  
Slovakia (2007)

##### **Western European and other States (13)**

Belgium (2008)  
Canada (2008)  
Finland (2010)  
France (2008)  
Germany (2007)  
Greece (2007)  
Israel (2007)  
Italy (2010)  
Netherlands (2010)  
Norway (2007)  
Spain (2007)  
United States of America (2010)  
Sweden (2008)

##### **Asian States (13)**

Bangladesh (2008)  
China (2008)  
Indonesia (2010)  
India (2007)  
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2010)  
Japan (2010)  
Jordan (2007)  
Pakistan (2010)  
Philippines (2007)  
Saudi Arabia (2007)  
Sri Lanka (2007)  
United Arab Emirates (2008)

One vacant seat to be filled in 2007

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<sup>1</sup> Information received from the Economic and Social Council as of February 2007.

## Annex II

### Geographical distribution of officers elected at previous sessions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

Year	Session of the Governing Council	President	Vice-Presidents	Rapporteur
1978	First	Western European and other States (Sweden)	African States (Malawi) Eastern European States (Poland) Latin American States (Mexico)	Asian States (Philippines)
1979	Second	African States (Kenya)	Asian States (Pakistan) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Eastern European States (Poland)
1980	Third	Latin American States (Mexico)	African States (Nigeria) Asian States (Iraq) Eastern European States (USSR)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)
1981	Fourth	Asian States (Philippines)	African States (Lesotho) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (Federal Republic of Germany)	Latin American States (Jamaica)
1982	Fifth	Eastern European States (USSR)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Latin American States (Jamaica) Western European and other States (Canada)	African States (Egypt)
1983	Sixth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Zambia) Eastern European States (Bulgaria) Latin American States (Argentina)	Asian States (Bangladesh)
1984	Seventh	African States (Gabon)	Asian States (India) Latin American States (Chile) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Eastern European States (USSR)
1985	Eighth	Latin American States (Jamaica)	African States (Tunisia) Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (Hungary)	Western European and other States (Greece)
1986	Ninth	Western European and other States (Turkey)	African States (Kenya) Asian States (Bangladesh) Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American States (Chile)
1987	Tenth	Eastern European States (Bulgaria)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Colombia) Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Kenya)
1988	Eleventh	Asian States (India)	African States (Botswana) Latin American States (Brazil) Western European and other States (United Kingdom)	Eastern European States (Poland)

1989	Twelfth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Gabon) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Asian States (Sri Lanka)
1991	Thirteenth	African States (Zimbabwe)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (USSR) Latin American States (Brazil)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)
1993	Fourteenth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Uganda) Asian States (Philippines) (Chile) Eastern European States (Romania)	Latin American States
1995	Fifteenth	Eastern European States (Russian Federation)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Venezuela) Western European and other States (United Kingdom)	African States (Cameroon)
1997	Sixteenth	Asian States (Bangladesh)	African States (Kenya) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Norway)	Eastern European States (Romania)
1999	Seventeenth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Senegal) Eastern European States (Bulgaria) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Asian States (Iran, (Islamic Republic of))
2001	Eighteenth	African States (Algeria)	Asian States (Bangladesh) Eastern European States (Russian Federation) Latin American States (Argentina)	Western European and other States (Turkey)
2003	Nineteenth	Western European and other States (Sweden)	African States (Malawi) Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American States (Chile)
2005	Twentieth	Eastern European (Czech Republic)	Asian States (Philippines) Latin American States (Argentina) Western European and other States (Germany)	African States (Nigeria)

Under the principle of geographical rotation provided for in rule 17, paragraph 2, of the Governing Council's rules of procedure, the following regional groups should provide candidates for the offices in question for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council:

2007	Twenty-first	Asia	African States Latin America and Caribbean Western European and other States	Eastern European States
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## **Annex III**

### **Proposed organizational arrangements for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat**

#### **Note by the Executive Director**

1. The Governing Council may find it conducive to the efficient conduct of its work during the twenty-first session to adopt the organizational arrangements set out below. These proposed organizational arrangements for the twenty-first session have been prepared in line with the recommendations of resolution 20/21 of the Governing Council, on organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council, which called on the Committee of the Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, acting as the Council's intersessional subsidiary body, to recommend to the Governing Council further proposals for improving the structure and organization of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council. At its twenty-fourth meeting, on 7 December 2006, the Committee of Permanent Representatives approved a set of such proposals for the twenty-first session which are reflected in the present note, especially with regard to the high-level segment, the dialogue and the theme.

#### **A. Bureau**

2. In accordance with rule 17 of the Governing Council's rules of procedure, the Bureau should consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur, elected with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution by rotation among the regional groups of States. Annex II to the present notification shows the geographical distribution of members of the Bureau at previous sessions of the Governing Council.

3. As provided for in rule 18 of the Governing Council's rules of procedure, one of the Vice-Presidents should be designated to chair the sessional committee of the whole referred to in paragraph 17 below. The remaining two Vice-Presidents would assist the President of the Governing Council directly in his or her duties in plenary and chair the ad hoc drafting committee referred to in paragraph 18 below.

#### **B. Plenary**

4. Following consultations with the Bureau of the Governing Council, it is recommended that the plenary divide its work into two segments; first, a high-level segment, with interventions primarily by ministers and other heads of delegations, which would be held on the first and second day; and, second, a dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to be held on the third day.

#### **C. High-level segment**

5. It is suggested that the high-level segment focus its discussions on the strategic issues of relevance to decision and policymaking at the national and international levels contained in the draft UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 (agenda item 8) and the theme paper (agenda item 6), in addition to related issues arising from other reports before the session, which would be fully discussed only in the Committee of the Whole (agenda item 5). The strategic focus of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the theme for the twenty-first session are mutually compatible, as both focus on sustainable urbanization and aspects of city-wide action, urban poverty and finance and planning.

6. The strategic issues to guide the debate at the high-level segment are to be found in the note by the secretariat on strategic issues arising from the medium term strategic and institutional plan and other related reports for decision by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, contained in document HSP/GC/21/5/Add.1. It should be recalled here that, in its resolution 20/21, the Governing Council decided that there should only be one theme for the twenty-first and future sessions of the Council and that this theme should provide a link between the high-level segment and the dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners and provide for cohesion in the policy discussions in plenary.

7. With a view to accommodating the 60–80 delegations which normally attend the sessions of the Governing Council, it is recommended that, during the high-level segment, each delegation be allowed a maximum of five minutes speaking time and that this limit be strictly adhered to. In this context, it should be noted that part of the morning meeting on the first day will be taken up by organizational matters.

8. In establishing the list of speakers for the high-level segment, precedence will be given to ministers and deputy ministers. These will be followed by other heads of governmental delegations, plus a limited number of statements by local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, as per rules 64 and 65 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council.

#### **D. Dialogue with local authorities and other partners**

9. In this regard, it should be recalled that, in operative paragraph 2 of its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, the Governing Council decided “to provide, at future sessions [of the Governing Council], opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments; such dialogues may, as appropriate, serve as an input to the deliberations [of the Governing Council]”.

10. Accordingly and in line with the relevant operative paragraphs of resolution 20/21 of 8 April 2005 (provided in annex VI below), the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives recommended to the Bureau of the Governing Council for the twentieth session that the theme for the twenty-first session be: sustainable urbanization: local action for poverty reduction, with an emphasis on finance and planning, with which recommendation the President of the Governing Council, on behalf of the Bureau, concurred.

11. In pursuance of the above resolutions, and with a view to increasing the participation and contribution of local authorities and other partners in the work of the Governing Council and towards the achievement of common goals to achieve the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and relevant Millennium Development Goals and the aims outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, arrangements have been made for the dialogue with local authorities and other partners to be held during the plenary meeting on the third day, as indicated in annex IV to the present notification. This dialogue, which will be on the theme mentioned in paragraph 10 above, will be based on the format followed by Committee II at the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, whereby representatives of partner groups will be given an opportunity to make a substantive presentation followed by a dialogue or discussion between Governments and partners on the presentations.

12. To this end, local authorities and other partners are encouraged to submit, in advance, a written summary of their presentation to the secretariat for distribution to all participants ahead of the meeting. They are also requested to address, through their comments on the theme paper, the draft UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 and to indicate the contribution that they will make to achieve it.

13. It is expected that the presentations to be made by representatives of local authorities and other partners will be the outcome of consultations by these groups with non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, professionals, researchers and labour unions. Arrangements will be made for local authorities and each group of partners to have, if they so wish, consultations in Nairobi immediately prior to the twenty-first session of the Governing Council, or at the time and venue of their choice.

14. Detailed information on the organization of the dialogue will be forwarded at a later date with the pre-session documents.

#### **E. Summary by the President**

15. At the end of the high-level segment and the dialogue, the President, drawing from the deliberations in these two plenary segments, will prepare a summary of the main issues raised in the high-level segment and the conclusions or recommendations made during the dialogue. This summary will reflect the main thrust of the discussions and key positions stated during the two segments and will be submitted to plenary for endorsement. Any possible draft resolution that may emerge out of the discussions at these plenary segments will be referred to the drafting committee for its action.

16. Once endorsed by the Governing Council as an accurate reflection of what transpired in the high-level segment and in the dialogue, the President’s conclusions and recommendations will serve as guidelines for follow-up action by Governments, local authorities, other partners and the secretariat, specifically in support of the 2008–2013 medium term strategic and institutional plan of UN-Habitat.

**F. Sessional committee of the whole**

17. Bearing in mind the organization of work for previous sessions of the Governing Council and the above recommendations on the work of the plenary, the Governing Council may wish to establish a sessional committee of the whole which would be given responsibility for agenda items 5, 8, 7 and 9, with the remaining items being considered by the Governing Council sitting in plenary.

**G. Drafting committee**

18. At its nineteenth session, on an informal basis, the Governing Council established an ad hoc open-ended drafting committee under the chairmanship of one of the vice-presidents to pre-screen draft resolutions submitted by delegations, with a view to merging, reconciling or clarifying them, as necessary, prior to their consideration by the Governing Council in the plenary session. The Governing Council may wish to continue this practice, which was widely felt to have enhanced the efficiency of its work, with the report of the drafting committee first passing through the Committee of the Whole for endorsement prior to final adoption by the Governing Council.

**H. Proposed timetable**

19. A proposed organization of work and timetable for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council is provided in annex IV to the present notification.

20. A list of the agenda items for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council and a list of corresponding documents is provided in annex V to the present notification.



## Annex IV

### Proposed organization of work and timetable for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

Nairobi, 16–20 April 2007

		Plenary	Committee of the Whole	Drafting committee
Monday, 16 April	a.m.	Opening of session Organizational matters: high-level segment: Agenda items 1, 2, 3 and 4	-	-
	p.m.	High level segment: Agenda items 8, 6 and 5	Agenda item 5	-
Tuesday, 17 April	a.m.	High level segment: Agenda items 8, 6 and 5	Agenda item 5 Agenda item 8	Consultations on draft resolutions
	p.m.	High level segment: Agenda items 8, 6 and 5	Agenda item 7	
Wednesday, 18 April	a.m. and p.m.	Dialogue among Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners on the special theme: agenda item 6 (full day)	Agenda item 7 and 8	Consultations on draft resolutions
Thursday, 19 April	a.m.	Chair's summary of high-level segment and dialogue	Agenda item 8 and 9	Consultations on draft resolutions
	p.m.			
Friday, 20 April	a.m.		Approval of draft reports on items 5, 7 and 8 and report on draft decisions	
	p.m.	Chair's summary of high-level segment and dialogue  Draft reports of plenary on items 1, 2, 3 and 4  Draft reports of the Committee of the Whole and report on draft resolutions Agenda items 9, 10, 11 and 12		

## **Annex V**

### **Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat**

#### **A. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including coordination matters.
6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council.
7. Work programme of UN-Habitat for the 2008–2009 biennium and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the 2008–2009 biennium.
8. Medium-term strategic and institutional plan for UN-Habitat for the period 2008–2013 and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.
9. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the session.
12. Closure of the session.

## B. List of documents before the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
		Notification by the Executive Director
		Addendum: Notification by the Executive Director
4	HSP/GC/21/1	Provisional agenda
4	HSP/GC/21/1/Add.1	Addendum: annotations to the provisional agenda including organization of work: note by the secretariat
4	HSP/GC/21/INF/1	List of documents before the Governing Council
5	HSP/GC/21/2	Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: progress report of the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.1	Addendum: report of the Executive Director on the third session of the World Urban Forum: note by the secretariat
5	HSP/GC/21/INF/2	Report of the third session of the World Urban Forum: note by the secretariat
5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.2	Addendum: cooperation with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, including draft guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities
5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.3	Addendum: cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations
5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.4	Addendum: 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: report of the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.5	Addendum: joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme: activities in the field of urban environment
5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.6	Addendum: energy consumption in human settlements: report of the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.7	Addendum: guiding principles on access to basic services for all
5	HSP/GC/21/INF/3	Guiding principles on access to basic services for all
5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.8	Addendum: independent Strategic Evaluation of the performance and impact of the Habitat Programme Managers: executive summary of the evaluation report

5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.9	Addendum: report of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period, including proposals for the organization of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council
5	HSP/GC/21/2/Add.10	Addendum: draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of the Permanent Representatives: note by the Secretariat
5	HSP/GC/21/INF/4	Independent Strategic evaluation of the performance and impact of the Habitat Programme Managers
5	HSP/GC/21/INF/5	Operational activities report 2006
6	HSP/GC/21/3	Report on the theme for the dialogue of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council
7	HSP/GC/21/4	UN-HABITAT Work Programme and Budget for 2008-2009: report of the Executive Director
7	HSP/GC/21/4/Add.1	Addendum: proposed Work Programme and Budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the Biennium 2008-2009: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
7	HSP/GC/21/4/Add.2	Addendum: Supplementary Budget for implementing the medium-term strategic and institutional plan
7	HSP/GC/21/INF/6	Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as on 28 February 2007
7	HSP/GC/21/INF/8	United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: Financial report for the biennium ended 31 December 2005 and report of the Board of Auditors: note by the secretariat
8	HSP/GC/21/5	Medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013
8	HSP/GC/21/5/Add.1	Addendum: strategic issues arising from the medium term strategic and institutional plan and other related reports for decision before the twenty-first session of the Governing Council
8	HSP/GC/21/5/Add.2	Addendum: United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: A Policy Frame Work
8	HSP/GC/21/5/Add.3	Addendum: medium-term strategic and institutional plan at a glance
8	HSP/GC/21/INF/7	Annexes: United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: A Policy Frame Work
9	HSP/GC/21/6	Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council

## Annex VI

## **Resolution 20/21: Organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council**

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 5/15 of 7 May 1982, in which it decided to designate the subjects of the special themes of its sessions two years in advance,

*Also recalling* its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, in which it decided to provide, at future sessions of the Council, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments,

*Further recalling* its resolution 19/5 of 9 May 2003, in which it decided that a continuing focus of its twentieth and future sessions should be the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum-dwellers,

*Noting* that the World Urban Forum now provides an opportunity for extensive dialogue among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners,

*Recognizing* the importance during sessions of the Governing Council of a focused, interactive high-level segment on priority policy issues,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on improving preparations for the Governing Council, which are contained in the appendix to the present resolution;

2. *Decides* that the special themes referred to in resolution 5/15 shall no longer be chosen two years in advance, but shall instead be selected by the Bureau of the Governing Council at least six months before the start of each session of the Governing Council, on the basis of advice from the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into account the outcome of the sessions of the World Urban Forum and the requirement for a continuing focus on the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers;

3. *Also decides* that the high-level segment and the dialogues referred to in its resolution 16/12 should normally focus on those special themes and should constitute the substantive debate on the special themes;

4. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to recommend to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, through the Bureau of the Governing Council, further proposals for improving the structure and organizational arrangements of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council including, in particular, the high-level segment;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare a background paper for use by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in complying with the request set forth in the preceding paragraph.

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