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of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme**

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**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme (UN-Habitat), including coordination matters**

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme:
progress report of the Executive Director**

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

Summary

The present report identifies matters arising out of the resolutions adopted since the twentieth session of the Governing Council by major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies, which call for action by the Governing Council 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 on further follow-up actions.

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I. Implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

1. On 22 December 2005, at its sixtieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/203, on implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and the strengthening of UN-Habitat, in which, among other things, it:

(a) Took note of the report of the UN-Habitat Governing Council on the work of its twentieth session, the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and strengthening of the UN-Habitat;

(b) Encouraged Governments to consider an enhanced approach to achieving the Cities Without Slums Initiative, mentioned in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, by upgrading existing slums and creating policies and programmes, according to national circumstances, to forestall the growth of future slums and in this regard invited the international donor community and multilateral and regional development banks to support the efforts of developing countries through means including increased voluntary financial assistance;

(c) Recognized that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the Millennium Declaration and stressed the need for the international community to implement fully commitments to support 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;

(d) 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;

(e) Also called for increased, non-earmarked contributions to the Foundation;

(f) Requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the poverty eradication, gender equality, water and sanitation and slum upgrading targets of the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(g) Emphasized the need for UN-Habitat to develop a results-based and less fragmented budget structure with a view to securing maximum efficiency, accountability and transparency in programme delivery, regardless of funding source;

(h) Requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

(i) Invited the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and the technical cooperation trust funds to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries to mobilize public investment and private capital for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

(j) Acknowledged contributions of the regional consultative initiatives, including conferences of ministers in the area of human settlements, for implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and invited the international community to support such efforts;

(k) Stressed the importance of publishing the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in time for their adoption, no later than the end of 2005;

(l) Requested UN-Habitat to intensify coordination within the framework of United Nations development assistance frameworks and the common country assessments and to continue to work with the World Bank, regional development banks, other development banks, regional organizations and other relevant partners to field-test innovative policies, practices and pilot projects in order to mobilize

resources to increase the supply of affordable credit for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(m) Invited all Governments to participate actively at the third session of the World Urban Forum and invited donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, including women and youth, in the Forum;

(n) 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;

(o) Recognized the important role and contribution of UN-Habitat in supporting 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 in this regard requested UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to continue to work closely with other relevant agencies in the United Nations system and invites the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to consider including UN-Habitat in its membership;

(p) Requested UN-Habitat, through its involvement in the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and through contacts with relevant United Nations agencies and partners in the field, to promote the early involvement of human settlements experts in the assessment and development of prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes to support the efforts of developing countries affected by natural disasters and other complex humanitarian emergencies.

2. The actions taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 60/203 are detailed in the Executive Director's progress report, contained in document HSP/GC/21/2.

II. 2005 World Summit Outcome

3. The General Assembly adopted resolution 60/1, entitled "2005 World Summit Outcome", on 16 September 2005. It contains 178 paragraphs under the following main headings:

- (a) Value and principles (paragraphs 1–16),
- (b) Development (paragraphs 17–68),
- (c) Peace and collective security (paragraphs 69–118),
- (d) Human rights and the rule of law (paragraphs 119–145), and
- (e) Strengthening the United Nations (paragraphs 146–178).

4. Of particular relevance in resolution 60/1 are the following operational paragraphs:

(a) In paragraph 22 (a), the Governments adopting the Outcome resolved to adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) In paragraph 34, given the need to accelerate progress immediately in countries where current trends make the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals unlikely, the Governments resolved to urgently identify and implement country-led initiatives with adequate international support, consistent with long-term national development strategies, that promise immediate and durable improvements in the lives of people and renewed hope for the achievement of development goals;

(c) In paragraph 56 (h) the Governments also resolved to assist developing countries' efforts to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans as part of their national development strategies and to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in accordance with the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including halving by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and who do not have access to basic sanitation;

(d) In paragraph 56 (m), they resolved to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility;

(e) In paragraph 58 (b), the Governments resolved to promote gender equality and eliminate pervasive gender discrimination by guaranteeing the free and equal right of women to own and inherit property and ensuring secure tenure of property and housing by women;

(f) In paragraph 174, they underlined the important role of local authorities in contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

5. The actions taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 60/203 are detailed in the Executive Director's progress report, contained in document HSP/GC/21/2, in the UN-Habitat work programme and budget for 2008–2009 (HSP/GC/21/4) and in the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan 2008–2013 (HSP/GC/21/5).

III. Programme planning

6. The General Assembly adopted resolution 60/257, entitled "Programme planning", on 8 May 2006. With that resolution, the General Assembly, among other things:

(a) Endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the recommendations of the Second Committee concerning the in-depth evaluation of the Human Settlements Programme;

(b) Took note of the report of the Office on Internal Oversight Services and encouraged intergovernmental bodies to make use of the findings in the programme performance report of the Secretary-General and evaluation reports in planning and policymaking;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General, with reference to the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in paragraphs 227 to 237 of its report, to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session the recommended report on further efforts made to ensure that support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development remains a priority of the United Nations system and that organizations represented on the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination increase their efforts in support of the New Partnership;

(d) Also requested the Secretary-General to continue to enhance and monitor the effective coordination of system-wide efforts against hunger and poverty.

7. The actions taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 60/257 are detailed in the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan 2008–2013, contained in document HSP/GC/21/5.

IV. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

8. On 20 December 2006, at its sixty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/206, 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) Requested the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to address at its twenty-first session and in a comprehensive manner, any issues relating to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, bearing in mind the need to mobilize resources for the Foundation effectively;

(b) Encouraged Governments to consider an enhanced approach to achieving the Cities Without Slums Initiative mentioned in the United Nations Millennium Declaration by upgrading existing slums and creating policies and programmes, according to national circumstances, to forestall the growth of future slums, and in this regard invited the international donor community and multilateral and regional development banks to support the efforts of developing countries, among other things, through increased voluntary financial assistance;

(c) Recognized that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the Millennium Declaration, and stressed the need for the international community to fully implement commitments to support 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;

- (d) 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 predictable multi-year funding to support programme implementation;
- (e) Also called for increased, non-earmarked contributions to the Foundation;
- (f) Requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the poverty eradication, gender equality, water and sanitation and slum upgrading targets of the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the 2005 World Summit Outcome;
- (g) Emphasized the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;
- (h) Welcomed the current efforts of UN-Habitat to develop a results-based and less fragmented budget structure with a view to securing maximum efficiency, accountability and transparency in programme delivery, regardless of funding source;
- (i) Invited the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and the technical cooperation trust funds to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries to mobilize public investment and private capital for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;
- (j) Acknowledged contributions of the regional consultative initiatives, including conferences of ministers in the area of human settlements, for implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and invited the international community to support such efforts;
- (k) Called upon UN-Habitat to strengthen its regional approach to coordination and implementation of its normative and operational activities and invited all countries in a position to do so to support the activities of UN-Habitat in this regard;
- (l) Requested UN-Habitat to intensify coordination in the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and common country assessments and to continue to work with the World Bank, regional development banks, other development banks, regional organizations and other relevant partners to field-test innovative policies, practices and pilot projects in order to mobilize resources to increase the supply of affordable credit for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (m) Invited all Governments to participate actively in the fourth session of the World Urban Forum and invited donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, including women and young people, in the Forum;
- (n) Recognized the important role and contribution of UN-Habitat in supporting 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 in this regard requested UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to continue to work closely with other relevant agencies in the United Nations system and strongly reiterated its invitation to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to consider including UN-Habitat in its membership;
- (o) Requested UN-Habitat, through its involvement in the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and through contacts with relevant United Nations agencies and partners in the field, to promote the early involvement of human settlements experts in the assessment and development of prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes to support the efforts of developing countries affected by natural disasters and other complex humanitarian emergencies.

9. The resolution is being submitted for the information of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council.

V. Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010

10. The General Assembly, at its sixty-first session, adopted resolution 61/1 entitled, “Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010” on 19 September 2006. Among other things, the Declaration:

(a) Reaffirmed that the primary responsibility for development in the least developed countries rests with those countries themselves but that their efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support from Governments and international organizations in a spirit of shared responsibility through genuine partnerships, including with civil society and the private sector;

(b) Stressed that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be effectively achieved in the least developed countries through, in particular, the timely fulfilment of the seven commitments of the Programme of Action;

(c) Recognized that it is important to achieve the goals and targets of the Programme of Action in a timely manner and, in this regard, welcomed the elaboration of the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 as an initiative owned and led by least developed countries;

(d) Welcomed the measures taken by developed and developing countries, as well as by multilateral organizations, to promote South-South cooperation and called upon them to continue to enhance their resources and efforts for capacity-building and development in the least developed countries, including the sharing of best practices in the sustainable development of the least developed countries;

(e) Called upon the international community and the United Nations system and its agencies to continue to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the conclusions of the midterm comprehensive global review.

11. The actions taken by UN-Habitat towards the implementation of resolution 61/1 are detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report, contained in document HSP/GC/21/2.

VI. Thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

12. At the conclusion of its thirteenth session, on 22 April 2005, the Commission on Sustainable Development adopted the report of that session (document E/2005/29). The report contains resolution 13/1, entitled “Policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in water, sanitation and human settlements”, which consists of seven paragraphs under the following headings:

(a) Introduction (paragraphs 1 to 3);

(b) Water (paragraphs 3 (a) to 3 (h));

(c) Sanitation (paragraphs 3 (i) to 3 (o));

(d) Human settlements (paragraphs 3 (p) to 3 (s));

(e) Inter-linkages and cross-cutting issues (paragraphs 3 (t) to 3 (x));

(f) International institutional arrangements for monitoring and follow-up of decisions on water, sanitation and human settlements taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session (paragraphs 3 (y) to 7).

13. With its resolution 13/1, the Commission on Sustainable Development, among other things, emphasized that:

(a) Investments in water, sanitation and human settlements contribute to economic growth, sustainable development, better health and reduced poverty, and that the achievement of water, sanitation and human settlements goals is critical to the implementation of the three pillars of sustainable development and the achievement of all the internationally agreed development goals;

(b) The policy options and practical measures for expediting implementation relating to water, sanitation and human settlements should be nationally owned and integrated into poverty reduction strategies and/or national sustainable development strategies, whose implementation should begin by 2005, or national development plans;

(c) Governments have the primary role in promoting improved access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, sustainable and secure tenure, and adequate shelter, through improved governance at all levels and appropriate enabling environments and regulatory frameworks, adopting a pro-poor approach and including the active involvement of all stakeholders;

(d) Efforts by Governments to achieve the agreed goals and targets on water, sanitation and human settlements should be supported by the international community through a conducive international policy environment, including good governance at the international level, a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system as well as meaningful trade liberalization, including through urgent completion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations with the realization of its development dimension, mobilization and transfer of financial resources, debt relief, including debt cancellation, where appropriate, public-public and public-private partnerships, technical cooperation and capacity-building, and technology transfer consistent with international obligations including agreements acceded to;

(e) Water, sanitation and human settlements are interlinked and complementary and should be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account economic, social and environmental aspects, related sectoral policies and cross-cutting issues as identified at the eleventh session of the Commission, as well as national, subregional and regional specificities, circumstances and legal frameworks, and bearing in mind that no one size fits all;

(f) All donors should coordinate, in consultation with recipient countries, their country-level support for water, sanitation and human settlements, for example, by using a lead donor approach if mutually agreed, to increase the effectiveness of donor assistance;

(g) Education for sustainable development and access to a reliable system of economic, social and environmental information on water, sanitation and human settlements enable informed decision-making and accountability.

14. With its resolution 13/1, the Commission on Sustainable Development also decided to call on Governments and the United Nations system and to invite international financial institutions and other international organizations, working with major groups and other stakeholders to take various actions, including the following:

(a) Provide an enabling policy and regulatory environment and mobilize the requisite means of implementation, including through regional cooperation and international support, including increased financial resources to promote sustainable human settlements development in both urban and rural areas, in accordance with national priorities;

(b) Support integrated planning and management of human settlements, incorporating land use, housing, water supply and sanitation, waste management, energy, employment and income-generation, education and health-care services, transportation and other infrastructure, giving due consideration to urbanization trends, in particular, to the needs of the urban poor in implementing the Millennium Declaration, with a view to preventing new slum formation;

(c) Assist in providing access for the poor, in urban and rural areas, to decent and affordable housing and basic services, in accordance with the Habitat Agenda;

(d) Address water, sanitation and human settlements in an integrated manner, taking into account economic, social and environmental aspects, related sectoral policies and cross-cutting issues as identified at the eleventh session of the Commission, as well as national, subregional and regional specificities, circumstances and legal frameworks, with particular attention given to the requirements of women, youth and workers, through a range of measures and approaches;

(e) Devise water, sanitation and human settlements policies and actions taking account of the need to address the impacts of rapid urbanization, desertification, climate change and climate variability and natural disasters;

(f) Noting that water and sanitation targets are to halve the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015, and that the target for slum-dwellers is to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, support countries, including through the

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in their ability to provide data and information on existing slums with a projection on new slum formation by 2020, and thereafter to adopt and implement plans to achieve these targets, linked to poverty reduction strategies, national sustainable development strategies or other relevant policy plans;

(g) Concerning the means of implementation, mobilize adequate resources to meet the water, sanitation and human settlements goals and targets, tapping both domestic and international sources through a range of financing approaches;

(h) Support, strengthen and implement voluntary monitoring, reporting and assessment of the thematic areas of water, sanitation and human settlements at the national and regional levels and through existing mechanisms at the global level to keep track of progress in achieving sustainable development, bearing in mind the specific needs of developing countries.

15. With its resolution 13/1, the Commission also:

(a) Requested UN-Habitat as the focal agency for human settlements, to facilitate, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations organizations and programmes as well as other partners, effective global monitoring of progress in the implementation of human settlements goals and targets, as well as measures agreed at the thirteenth session of the Commission concerning human settlements;

(b) Called upon Member States to strengthen the capacities of UN-Habitat to provide, within its mandate, increased assistance to developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, including through the current pilot phase of the Slum Upgrading Facility.

16. The actions taken by UN-Habitat to implement resolution 13/1 are detailed in the Executive Director's progress report, contained in document HSP/GC/21/2.

VII. Fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

17. At the conclusion of its fourteenth session, on 12 May 2006, the Commission on Sustainable Development adopted the report of that session (document E/2006/29(SUP)/E/CN.17/2006/15(SUPP)). The report contains the Chairman's summary of the session, which comprises 284 paragraphs under the following main headings:

Part one

- (a) Opening of the session: report on intercessional events (paragraphs 1 to 5),
- (b) Overall review: general statements (paragraphs 6 to 19),
- (c) Thematic discussions: energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change (paragraphs 20 to 187),
- (d) Regional discussions (paragraphs 188 to 215),
- (e) Small island developing States day (paragraphs 216 to 229),
- (f) Interactive discussions with major groups (paragraphs 230 to 239),
- (g) Partnerships fair, learning centre and side events (paragraphs 240 to 249).

Part two

- (a) High-level segment (paragraphs 250 to 283),
- (b) Responding to challenges: the way forward (paragraph 284).

18. As noted in the report of the fourteenth session, members of the Commission expressed the following views during the thematic discussions on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change:

(a) Energy efficiency provides a win-win opportunity with many benefits including greater industrial competitiveness, better energy security and substantial reductions in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions in a cost-effective way. There is considerable scope for improving energy efficiency in households, the transport sector and industry, including the energy industry, by changing consumption and production patterns, behaviours and lifestyles;

(b) The rapid growth of private vehicle ownership in some developing countries, driven by population growth, economic growth and urbanization, is leading to increased urban air pollution. In others, a fleet of old vehicles produces high levels of pollution. The higher cost of new vehicles with better fuel efficiency and pollution controls can be a constraint to more rapid turnover of the vehicle fleet;

(c) The social benefits of improved energy efficiency, including job creation and reduced public health costs, have also been recognized. Among measures found to be effective in promoting energy efficiency are mandatory performance standards, appliance and building standards and labels, financial incentives for technology improvements and the elimination of perverse incentives whereby energy utilities maximize profits by maximizing electricity sales;

(d) Better coordination among national energy, transport and land-use ministries and between Governments and the private sector is needed. Better land-use planning, such as locating residential, commercial and employment centres with a view to energy savings, needs attention;

(e) Innovative approaches to urban planning, including land-use planning, public transportation systems and traffic management, are needed to manage urban air quality, with the involvement of all stakeholders in decision-making and implementation.

19. The actions taken by UN-Habitat to implement the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session, as set out in the report of that session (E/2006/29(SUP)/E/CN.17/2006/15(SUPP)), are detailed in document HSP/GC/21/2/Add 6, entitled "Energy consumption in human settlements".
