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

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

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

Draft resolution

Sustainable development of Arctic human settlements

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda¹ and its resolution 20/8 of 8 April 2005,

Recognizing that human settlements in the Arctic region and their population, in order to be sustainable, must address and meet special needs caused by severe climatic conditions, the low carrying capacity of the natural environment, the inability to resist pollution and the increasing burden imposed by the exploitation of the region's rich natural resources,

Taking note of the demographic trends of the population of the region in general and indigenous peoples in particular,

Recognizing also that adequate shelter and living conditions, and also access to basic services, are of primary importance among those needs,

Welcoming the initiatives undertaken by the Executive Director in promoting efforts to attain the Habitat Agenda goals in the Arctic region,

Welcoming also efforts undertaken by the Executive Director in establishing cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the regional research network of the Global Resource Information Database in Arendal, Norway (GRID-Arendal) in raising awareness

* HSP/GC/21/1.

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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among the international community of the sustainable development challenges of the Arctic region, including those faced by the indigenous peoples,

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council, in particular the Arctic Human Development Report,

Noting also the need for increased exchange of action-focused information between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Arctic Council and other regional and international relevant players designed to promote the sustainable development of human settlements in the Arctic region,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue and expand efforts in the establishment of United Nations Human Settlements Programme partnership relations across the United Nations system, and also with other regional stakeholders, for the promotion of the Habitat Agenda in the sustainable development of human settlements in the Arctic region;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to apply for observer status for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at the Arctic Council, with the aim of strengthening collaboration and coordination with the Council and in order to avoid duplication of work;

3. *Invites* the Executive Director to harmonize existing close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the serious urban environmental problems in the Arctic region;

4. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue efforts to implement resolution 20/8 and to review relevant research results, current projects and other data on living conditions, local governance and management in human settlements in the Arctic region, with a view to informing and guiding future actions by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

5. *Invites* interested Governments and other interested stakeholders to provide the necessary resources for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to implement the present resolution in full cooperation with other United Nations organizations;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.
