



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, Nairobi 00100, KENYA Telephone: (254-20) 7621234 Fax: (254-20) 7624266/7 (Central Office)
Email: infohabitat@unhabitat.org Website: <http://www.unhabitat.org>

28 February 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 Addendum

Guidelines for the dialogue on sustainable urbanization: local action for urban poverty reduction, with an emphasis on finance and planning

Dates, venue and participation

1. A dialogue on sustainable urbanization will take place during the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The dialogue will take place on Wednesday, 18 April, in conference room 2 at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya. Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners will participate.

Objective of the dialogue

2. As indicated in the notification from the Executive Director announcing the twenty-first session of the Governing Council and as further detailed in the theme paper on the subject (HSP/GC/21/3), the primary objective of the dialogue is to facilitate discussion on how urban poverty can be reduced through local action, with an emphasis on local finance and participatory planning, and on how to put into practice actionable ideas and lessons learned.

3. The second objective is to catalyze partnerships between local and national Governments on the one hand and between local governments and civil society, including the private sector, on the other. In this process, attention will be given to community participation in order to maximize results based on UN-Habitat's catalytic role in mobilizing resources and initiating global partnerships for attaining targets 10 (Water and sanitation) and 11 (Slum upgrading) of the Millennium Development Goals.

Expected outcome of the dialogue

4. The anticipated political outcome of the dialogue is the mobilization Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to commit to an agenda for local action in support of UN-Habitat's proposed Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008–2013. That agenda will be finalized and adopted at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China, in 2008. While the discussions there will highlight the challenges confronting cities and communities in developing countries, it is expected that many of the observations and recommendations will also be of global relevance, as urban poverty, economic growth and the financing of infrastructure and services also represent major challenges for many urban areas in developed countries and in countries with economies in transition.

Mandate for the dialogue at the twenty-first session

5. By paragraph 2 of its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, the Governing Council decided that future sessions of the Council would provide the “opportunity for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments”, observing that such dialogues might, as appropriate, serve as an input to the deliberations of the sessions of the Governing Council.

6. Given the limited time for statements by local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners during the high-level segment of the twenty-first session in line with rules 64 and 65 of the Governing Council, the dialogue is intended to provide local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners with ample opportunity to exchange ideas with Governments on the theme of the dialogue and to highlight their strategies for meeting the challenges for local action for sustainable urbanization in the years ahead. To facilitate the discussions all panelists (see below) are encouraged to submit, in advance, written summaries of their presentations to the secretariat for distribution prior to the dialogue.

Decisions of the twentieth-session of the Governing Council on the theme and role of the dialogue at future sessions

7. In accordance with Governing Council resolution 20/21, approved at the Twentieth session of the Governing Council in 2005, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat recommended to the Bureau of the Governing Council that the theme of the dialogue at the twenty-first session be “Sustainable urbanization: local action for urban poverty reduction, with an emphasis on finance and planning”, and made other recommendations regarding other new organizational arrangements for the session. These recommendations were subsequently endorsed by the President of the Governing Council.

8. As further explained in the notification of the Executive Director, the theme is intended to provide a link between the high-level segment of the session and the dialogue. Accordingly, both the strategic issues paper (HSP/GC/5/Add.1), the main document for debate during the high-level segment, and the theme paper (HSP/GC/21/3) are informed by the proposed UN-Habitat Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008–2013 (HSP/GC/21/5), with the strategic issues paper focusing on matters relevant to national and international action and the theme paper

aiming to guide the discussion on local action for sustainable urbanization and poverty reduction during the dialogue.

Organizational structure of the dialogue

9. The dialogue will be held in two consecutive sessions, one each on the morning and the afternoon of 18 April 2007.

Morning session: 9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

10. The morning session will be the technical segment of the dialogue, and will be devoted to the role of planning in urban poverty reduction and financing pro-poor housing and urban development. The interventions and discussion should highlight experiences and the importance of finance and planning to sustainable urbanization in the twenty-first century.

Afternoon session: 2 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

11. The afternoon session will be the political segment of the dialogue, where local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners will state their commitment and the way forward toward an agenda for local action for poverty reduction as a means of supporting the proposed UN-Habitat Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan.

12. Further information outlining the issues to be addressed in the morning and afternoon session is contained in the theme paper (HSP/GC/21/3).

Composition of the panels

13. The dialogue will be chaired by the President of the Governing Council or a member of the Bureau of the twenty-first session designated by the President. The discussions at each session will be led by a facilitator, one for the morning and one for the afternoon session.

14. There will be seven panellists for the morning session, comprising two representatives of Governments, two representatives of local authorities and three representatives of other Habitat Agenda partners.

15. Prior to the interventions by the Panel, it is expected that the Chair of the dialogue will brief the dialogue participants on those parts of the outcome of the high-level segment that are relevant to the discussions at the dialogue. This will be followed by the panel discussion, beginning with interventions by the panellists followed by a discussion moderated by the facilitator between the panel and an audience consisting of participants at the twenty-first session from Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners.

16. There will also be seven panelists for the afternoon session of the dialogue, comprising two representatives of local authorities organizations and five representatives of other Habitat Agenda partners.

17. The panellists will make statements and may be asked follow-up questions by the facilitator. It is expected, as earlier indicated, that at the afternoon session the local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners will not only state their commitment to local action for sustainable urbanization, but also their expectations regarding the steps that Governments will take to facilitate their positive contribution to that goal. This

should be the subject of the general discussion to follow the presentations by the panellists.

18. It is expected that the list of panellists will be finalized by the secretariat by mid-March 2007.

19. For further information please contact:

Mr. Anantha Krishnan, Civil Society/Partners Section
Chief, Partners & Youth Section
Monitoring & Research Division
UN-Habitat
Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: + 254 20 762 3870
E-mail: anantha.krishnan@unhabitat.org

Mr. Guenter Karl
Dialogue Focal Point
Partners & Youth Section
Monitoring & Research Division
UN-Habitat
Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: + 254 20 762 3050
E-mail: guenter.karl@unhabitat.org

Mr. Alain Kanyinda, Local Authorities/Governance Section
Coordinator, Local Government Unit & NEPAD Cities Programme
Global Division
UN-Habitat
Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: + 254 20 762 4122
E-mail: alain.kanyinda@unhabitat.org