

## Resolution 21/6: Urban youth development

*The Governing Council,*

*Fully aware* that a high proportion of the world's population is young, especially in the developing world, and that that segment of the population is inordinately affected by the problems of unemployment and unsustainable urban development,

*Also fully aware* of the immense potential of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 in developing countries to contribute to social development if afforded the right opportunities,

*Noting therefore* that positioning young people at the centre of urban development strategies is critical to solving the problems of human settlements in developing countries,

*Having in mind* rural-urban linkages and noting the dynamic, cyclical movements between rural and urban areas by young people,

*Recalling* its commitment in paragraph 45 (e) of the Habitat Agenda<sup>1</sup> to the objective of "working in partnership with youth in order to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare youth for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development",

*Also recalling* its resolutions 19/13 of 9 May 2003 and 20/1 of 8 April 2005 inviting Governments and other partners to support and implement enabling strategies for young people, in particular young women, to promote their involvement and participation in local and national governance related to human settlements development,

*Acknowledging* the strategy entitled "UN-Habitat and youth: strategy for enhanced engagement",<sup>2</sup> which states the objective of working with youth as "to provide an integrated approach to urban youth development which will mainstream a focus on youth in the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat and will ultimately strengthen the impact of its work in reducing urban poverty",<sup>3</sup>

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005 on policies and programmes involving youth and acknowledging the *World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation*, prepared by the World Bank, which explores ways of broadening opportunities for young people to develop their human capital,

*Keeping in mind* the important role of the young generation as the bearer of continuity and institutional memory of the experience accumulated by Governments and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the sphere of urbanization,

*Cognizant* of the 2006–2007 work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Medium-term Strategic and Strategic Plan for 2008–2013 and their strengthened focus on mainstreaming youth in the normative and operative programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to establish a special fund within the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, to be designated the "Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development", to support youth-led initiatives in pursuance of the Habitat Agenda, the work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and overall strategy within the following areas:

(a) Mobilizing young people to help strengthen youth-related policy formulation;

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<sup>1</sup> *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.

<sup>2</sup> HSP/GC/20/2/Add.5.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 19.

(b) Building the capacities of Governments at all levels, non-governmental and civil society organizations and private-sector entities to ensure a better response to the needs and issues of young people;

(c) Supporting the development of interest-based information and communication-oriented networks;

(d) Piloting and demonstration of new and innovative approaches to employment, good governance, adequate shelter and secure tenure;

(e) Sharing and exchange of information on best practices;

(f) Facilitating vocational training and credit mechanisms to promote entrepreneurship and employment for young women and men, in collaboration with the private sector and in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and stakeholders;

(g) Promoting gender mainstreaming in all activities of urban youth;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to target support from the special fund to those young people who need assistance the most, in particular the most vulnerable in urban slums;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to establish an advisory committee which would develop criteria for the operation of the special fund and for mainstreaming youth issues in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, whose membership would comprise senior managers of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, contributing donors and youth representatives, both male and female;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Director to mainstream age-related instruments in the overall work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and in line with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008–2013;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to encourage contributions from multilateral agencies, Governments, the private sector and civil society for the establishment of the special fund;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake an evaluation of the operation of the special fund and to submit a report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Invites* Governments, through regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development such as those of the Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions to take into consideration the significant role of youth in sustainable urbanization and urban development by promoting youth-centred policies.

*7th plenary meeting  
20 April 2007*