



**HSP**

---

**HSP/WUF/4/INF/3**



World Urban Forum 4  
第四届世界城市论坛  
03-06 November 2008 Nanjing, China

HARMONIOUS URBANIZATION

Distr.: General  
16 October 2008

English only

---

**Fourth session**  
**Nanjing, 03-06 November 2008**  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

## **WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORLD URBAN FORUM**

---

\* HSP/WUF/4/1

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Note by the secretariat

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The World Urban Forum is being convened pursuant to operative paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements in which the Commission requested the Executive Director to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum, with a view to strengthening the coordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Subsequently, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 56/206, that the Forum, would be a non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet.
2. The proposed objectives of the World Urban Forum and those invited to attend its meetings are indicated in the annex to the present paper.
3. The present note, proposing working arrangements for the World Urban Forum, was submitted to the first session and was adopted.

**I. PROPOSED WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORLD URBAN FORUM**

1. A review of operative paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements, of paragraph 3 of section I. B of General Assembly resolution 56/206, and of the above-mentioned objectives and participation at the World Urban Forum indicates that the Forum is clearly not meant to be an intergovernmental meeting and, consequently, the use of rules of procedure such as those of the Governing Council of UNHABITAT would be inappropriate. The use of those rules would limit the full and effective participation of the Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations and recommendations of the Forum. Additionally, since both the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty did not have formal rules of procedure, it is recommended that the World Urban Forum should also not have formal rules of procedure. This would facilitate maximum participation of the Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations and recommendations of the Forum.
2. Accordingly, and in lieu of formal rules of procedure, it is proposed that the World Urban Forum adopt, with some modifications, the innovative working arrangements that were used very effectively and successfully by the second committee of the Habitat II Conference (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-14 June 1996) and subsequently revived for the "Dialogues between governments and Habitat Agenda partners" held during the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements (Nairobi, 5-14 May 1999 and 5-9 February 2001, respectively) and also successfully used in the thematic committee of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (New York, 6-8 June 2001).
3. In essence, it is proposed that the main discussions of the Forum be conducted in the form of dialogues among Habitat Agenda partners and governments. Towards this end, selected panelists would introduce and make short substantive presentations on specific issues followed by discussions between the delegates and panelists on those specific issues.
4. If a specific presentation is to be made on behalf of one of the Habitat Agenda partners, for instance, local authorities, non-governmental organizations or parliamentarians, it would be expected that that presentation would be the result of a preparatory process (consultations) within the group. In this regard, arrangements would be made by the secretariat for such a group to have, if it so wishes, consultations at the venue of the meeting immediately prior to the convening of the Forum or at any other time and venue of their choice.

5. At the end of the dialogues, the Chair, drawing from the deliberations, would prepare a summary of, first, the main issues raised during the presentations and discussions and, second, the conclusions or recommendations made at the end of the discussions. These summaries would reflect the main thrust of the presentations, discussions and recommendations and would be submitted to the plenary by the chair for adoption by consensus. Once adopted by the plenary as an accurate reflection of what transpired in the dialogues, the Chair's conclusions and recommendations would be submitted by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) at its subsequent session for consideration and appropriate action.

## **II. WORKING GROUPS**

6. For issues that require more analysis or in-depth discussions, the plenary would, as appropriate, establish working groups or subgroups to discuss those issues and then report back to the plenary. For instance, for the first session of the World Urban Forum, it is proposed that the plenary establish at its first meeting an open ended subgroup for consultations on agenda item 3 of the provisional agenda (Working arrangements for the World Urban Forum). The results of the discussions in that subgroup will be submitted to the plenary for final consideration as indicated in annex II of the annotations to the provisional agenda (HSP/WUF/1/ORG/Paper 1/Add.1).

## **III. ADVISORY GROUP**

7. At the beginning of each session, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT will propose the names of an advisory group that will advise and assist the Executive Director with the organization, management and conduct of the meetings of that particular session of the World Urban Forum. The advisory group would consist of a chairperson, a co-chairperson and vice-chairpersons. In addition to the above-mentioned duties, the chairperson and co-chairperson would lead the plenary and one group of Dialogues and designate vice-chairpersons to lead the other Dialogue and any working groups or subgroups that may be established by the plenary.

## **IV. OTHER WORKING ARRANGEMENTS: DATE AND VENUE**

8. The World Urban Forum would meet during the years when the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT is not meeting and at a date and venue to be proposed by the secretariat in consultation with the Habitat Agenda partner groups.

### Provisional agenda

9. The provisional agenda for each session of the World Urban Forum would be prepared by the secretariat in consultation with partner groups.

### Languages

10. English will be the official and working language of the World Urban Forum. French and Spanish may be added, subject to the availability of additional extra-budgetary resources.

Adoption of recommendations

11. Recommendations of the World Urban Forum will be adopted by consensus.

Secretariat

12. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) will serve as the convener and secretariat of the World Urban Forum. It will also be responsible for preparation of the report of each session.

---

## Annex

### Objectives and participation

#### Objectives of the World Urban Forum

Building on the very valuable experience of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty, the unified World Urban Forum will have international cooperation in shelter and urban development as its substantive focus, and will serve as an advisory body to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on these issues. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of section I. B of General Assembly resolution 56/206, the Forum is a non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet. Accordingly, the meetings of the World Urban Forum will facilitate the exchange of experiences and the advancement of collective knowledge among cities and their development partners. The meetings of the World Urban Forum will also place strong emphasis on the participation of Habitat Agenda partners and relevant international programmes, funds and agencies, thus ensuring their inclusion in the identification of new issues, the sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of best practices and good policies. Another function of the World Urban Forum will be the elimination of overlaps and identification of synergies among development agencies in implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The report and recommendations of the World Urban Forum will be presented to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT for consideration and appropriate action, including transmittal to the biennial sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

#### Participation

Participation in the World Urban Forum will be open to representatives of national governments and Habitat Agenda partners. The latter include local authorities, global parliamentarians on Habitat, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, human settlement professionals, research institutions and academies of science, the private, business and non-profit sectors, foundations, relevant United Nations organizations and other international agencies.

---