

9 February 2009

**Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme (UN-Habitat)**

Twenty-second session (Nairobi, 30 March–3 April 2009)

**Notification by the Executive Director
Addendum**

**Guidelines for the dialogue on promoting affordable housing finance
systems in an urbanizing world in the face of
the financial crisis and climate change**

Dates, venue and participation

1. A dialogue on affordable housing finance systems will be held during the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). This dialogue will take place on Wednesday, 1 April 2009, in Conference Room No. 2 at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi. Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners will participate.

Objective of the dialogue

2. As indicated in the notification by the Executive Director announcing the twenty-second session of the Governing Council and as further detailed in the theme paper on the subject (HSP/GC/22/4), the primary objective of the dialogue is to facilitate discussion on the implications of the current financial crisis and the challenges posed by climate change for efforts to promote effective systems for financing affordable housing and infrastructure.

3. The second objective is to catalyse responses to the problems identified, building on the recommendations of the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

Expected outcome of the dialogue

4. The anticipated political outcome of the dialogue is to mobilize the commitment of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners at all levels. A summary by the President of the Governing Council of the conclusions and recommendations arising out of the dialogue will form part of the report of the work of the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

Mandate for the dialogue at the twenty-second 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-second 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 of financing affordable housing in the years ahead. To facilitate discussions all panellists (see below) are encouraged to submit, in advance, written summaries of their presentations to the secretariat for distribution prior to the dialogue.

Mandate on the theme of the twenty-second session of the Governing Council

7. In accordance with procedures laid down in resolution 20/21, the Committee of Permanent Representatives recommended to the Bureau of the Governing Council that the theme of the dialogue at the twenty-second session should be “affordable housing finance systems in the face of the financial crisis and climate change”.

8. As further explained in the notification by the Executive Director, the theme is intended to provide a link between the high-level segment of the session and the dialogue. Accordingly, the theme paper (HSP/GC/22/4) will guide the discussion on affordable housing finance systems during the dialogue and the high-level segment.

Organizational structure of the dialogue

9. The dialogue will be held in two consecutive sessions, one each on the morning and the afternoon of 1 April 2009.

Morning session: 9 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

10. The morning session will be devoted to the topic of affordable housing finance in the context of the current global economic crisis. The interventions and discussions should highlight the key implications of the crisis on developing countries and policy responses by international organizations, national Governments and Habitat Agenda partners.

Afternoon session: 2 p.m.–5.30 p.m.

11. The afternoon session will focus on the effects of climate change on financing affordable housing and infrastructure and the development of long term-solutions in the context of continuing urbanization in developing countries.

12. Further information outlining the issues to be discussed during the morning and afternoon sessions is contained in the theme paper (HSP/GC/22/4).

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-second 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. For each of the two sessions, there will be seven panellists, comprising one representative of Governments, two representatives of local authorities and four representatives of Habitat Agenda partners.

15. Prior to 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 from Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners.

16. The panellists will make statements and may be asked follow-up questions by the facilitator. It is expected, as earlier indicated, that local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners will not only state their commitment to participating in efforts to promote financing affordable housing, but also their expectations regarding the steps that Governments will take to facilitate their positive contribution to this issue. This should be the subject of the general discussion to follow the presentations by the panellists.

17. The list of panellists will be finalized by the secretariat shortly and posted on the UN-Habitat website at the following address: www.unhabitat.org.

18. For further information please contact:

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

Mr. Michael Mutter
Dialogue Focal Point
Senior Adviser
Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF)
Human Settlements Financing Division
UN-Habitat
Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254 20 7623691
Email: michael.mutter@unhabitat.org

Mr. Guenter Karl
Chief, Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations Unit
Partners and Youth Section
Monitoring & Research Division
UN-Habitat
Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254 20 762 3050
Email: guenter.karl@unhabitat.org
