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Governing Council
of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

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Nairobi, 30 March–3 April 2009

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme, including coordination matters

Report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

Draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. In accordance with the relevant provisions of Governing Council resolution 18/1 of 16 February 2001, the secretariat is transmitting in the annex to the present note, for the consideration of the Council, a letter dated 13 February 2009 which was addressed to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat.
2. In the letter, the Chair has, among other things, requested the Executive Director to bring to the attention of the Council four draft resolutions that were prepared by the Committee, the texts of which are attached to the letter.

* HSP/GC/22/1.

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Annex

Madam,

On behalf of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, I have the honour to forward herewith, for your attention, copies of four draft resolutions, listed below, which were prepared by the Committee for submission to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-second session. These draft resolutions were prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, through its working group on preparations for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council, with a view to assisting the Council in its deliberations on some of the issues which will be before it during the session.

In forwarding, through you, these draft resolutions to the Governing Council, I wish to underline that all the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives reserve the right of their respective delegations to reopen discussions on any of the draft resolutions during their consideration by the Council. The draft resolutions are as follows:

- ◆ HSP/GC/22/L.1: Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2010–2011.
- ◆ HSP/GC/22/L.2: World Urban Forum.
- ◆ HSP/GC/22/L.3: Guidelines on access to basic services for all.
- ◆ HSP/GC/22/L.4: South-South cooperation in human settlements.

I would be grateful if, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 18/1 of 16 February 2001, these draft resolutions could be brought to the attention of the Council, as official documents of the session, for further consideration and appropriate action.

Kindly note that, in accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HSP/GC/22/6) is to be brought to the attention of the Bureau of the Governing Council before submission to the Governing Council.

Please accept, Madam, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Ms. Jacqueline Mendoza

Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme and
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Ms. Anna Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director
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HSP/GC/22/L.1

Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2010–2011

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹ to achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development² to reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/203 of 13 March 2006, calling for increased voluntary contributions and recognizing the continued urgent need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Taking into account the approved six-year medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 as the overarching future strategy for the programme of work, financial and human resources of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Welcoming the progress made to date in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, including the experimental reimbursable seeding operations,

Having considered the proposed biennial work programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2010–2011³ [and the associated report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions],⁴

1. [Approves the proposed work programme and budget for 2010–2011];
2. Also approves the general-purpose budget of [\$66,190,500] and endorses the special-purpose budget of [\$95,717,700] for the biennium 2010–2011 detailed in the proposed work programme and budget for 2010–2011;⁵
3. Further approves an increase in the general-purpose statutory reserve from [\$3,279,500] to [\$6,619,500];
4. Requests the Executive Director to report on the execution of the work programme against each of its expected accomplishments to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a half-yearly basis, as well as to the Governing Council;
5. Also requests the Executive Director to continue the full implementation of the approved six-year medium-term strategic and institutional plan;
6. Further requests the Executive Director to ensure timely and close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the preparation of a prioritized, results-based strategic framework and the work programme and budget for the biennium 2012–2013, both aligned to the approved six-year medium-term strategic and institutional plan;
7. Calls upon the Executive Director to report on a half-yearly basis on progress made and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;
8. Also calls upon the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to conduct a midterm review of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and to present the results to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;

1 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

2 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

3 HSP/GC/22/5.

4 HSP/GC/22/INF/5.

5 Ibid.

9. Requests the Executive Director, in keeping with resolution 21/10 of the Governing Council, to continue implementation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations and other innovative financial mechanisms and to commission an external evaluation to assess the progress of the implementation of these activities, building on paragraphs 7 (g) and 7 (i) of the said resolution and the principles contained in paragraph 6.36 of the operational procedures and guidelines for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation experimental reimbursable seeding operations as endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 3 April 2008;

10. [*Also requests* the Executive Director to report on progress made in the implementation of the gender equality action plan for 2008–2013 to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;]

11. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, in the event of a shortfall or surplus in income, to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it in line with the actual level of income;

12. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate general-purpose resources between subprogrammes in an amount up to 10 per cent of the total general-purpose budget;

13. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in excess of 10 per cent and up to 25 per cent of the total general-purpose budget;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to report all reallocations and adjustments to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the quarterly financial reports.

HSP/GC/22/L.2

World Urban Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution 18/5 of 16 February 2001, in which it 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”,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, and in particular paragraph 3 of section B, in which the General Assembly decided that the Forum would be a non-legislative technical forum in which experts could exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme did not meet, in addition to subsequent calls by the General Assembly for all Governments to participate actively in the sessions of the World Urban Forum,⁶

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976 on the pattern of conferences, in which the General Assembly decided “that the United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved”,

Recalling the invitation by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/226 of 23 December 2003, to donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, and also its resolution 62/198 of 19 December 2007, by which it called upon “donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including women and young people, in the Forum”,

Noting with appreciation the successful organization of the fourth session of the Forum, held in Nanjing, China from 3 to 6 November 2008, [and the growing interest of the global community in the World Urban Forum, as demonstrated by four successive successful sessions of the Forum and the increasing participation of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners from all regions and which has made the Forum the foremost global arena for interaction between policymakers, local government leaders, non-government stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements,]

Noting [with appreciation] the report of the Executive Director on the fourth session of the World Urban Forum,⁷

Noting also the establishment of a World Urban Forum unit within the secretariat of the Governing Council to enhance the coordination of the preparation and conduct of the Forum,

Reiterating the objectives of the World Urban Forum as contained in annex IV to the report of the first session of the World Urban Forum, held in Nairobi from 29 April to 3 May 2002,

1. *Welcomes* the invitation by the Government of Brazil to host the fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro from 22 to 26 March 2010;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to carry out an early lessons-learned review of all previous sessions of the World Urban Forum to be submitted to the Committee prior to its September 2009 session, drawing on their respective evaluations with a view to improving the planning, organization and effectiveness of future sessions, containing, among other things, recommendations on the following areas:

- (a) Timing between Governing Councils and sessions of the World Urban Forum;
- (b) Mobilization of adequate and predictable resources;
- (c) Consideration of specific provision within the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation budget for activities related to the World Urban Forum;
- (d) Scale, inclusiveness and effectiveness of participation;

⁶ General Assembly resolutions 60/203 of 22 December 2005 and 62/198 of 19 December 2007.

⁷ HSP/GC/22/2/Add.1.

- (e) Strengthening participant preparation at all levels;
- (f) Results-based-management-compatible evaluation process to ensure that specific objectives of the World Urban Forum relate to the UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan and to the biennial work programme and budget;
- (g) Location assessment, including a cost-benefit analysis;
- (h) World Urban Forum budget planning process;
- (i) Timely negotiation of host country agreements;
- (j) Need to strengthen UN-Habitat internal management processes;
- (k) Cooperation with Habitat Agenda partners;

3. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to consider the lessons-learned review and to make further recommendations to the Executive Director on future sessions of the Forum;

4. *Requests* Governments and all other Habitat partners who are in position to do so to contribute to the success of the World Urban Forum by supporting the travel to, and participation in, the fifth session of the Forum by representatives of developing countries and of Habitat Agenda partners, including representatives of organizations of women, young people and people with disabilities;

5. *Requests the* Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

HSP/GC/22/L.3

Guidelines on access to basic services for all

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolutions 20/5 on access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements and 21/4 on guiding principles on access to basic services for all and cognizant of the report of the Executive Director on guidelines on access to basic services for all,⁸ which contains in its annex the draft international guidelines on access to basic services for all that were prepared in consultation with other United Nations bodies and concerned stakeholders and in line with the guidelines on decentralization and the guiding principles on access to basic services for all,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001 adopting the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, by which the Assembly resolved to promote access to safe drinking water for all and to facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport, through transparent and accountable management of public services and also partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations for the delivery of those services,

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the leading role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the contribution of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other agencies and partners in the consultative process which led to the development of the draft guidelines on access to basic services for all;

2. *Approves* the guidelines on access to basic services for all included in the annex of the report of the Executive Director⁹ as a key instrument in attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and therefore in contributing to human dignity, quality of life, sustainable livelihoods and the enjoyment of human rights;

3. *Invites* Governments to place the issue of access to basic services for all at the centre of their national development policies, with a special emphasis on filling the gaps for the poor and marginalized groups, and to strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks for facilitating partnerships at all levels, in line with the aforementioned guidelines;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, within its approved medium-term strategic and institutional plan and biennial work programme, to develop training instruments and assist interested Governments to adapt the guidelines to their national contexts, where appropriate, and further to develop tools and indicators as part of its support for the implementation of the guidelines;

5. *Also requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to develop innovative partnerships with other United Nations bodies, development banks, Governments, local authorities and their associations, including United Cities and Local Governments, private service providers and other Habitat Agenda partners, to support the ownership and application of the guidelines to local and national circumstances;

6. *Recommends* that the guidelines be considered by the United Nations Economic and Social Council with a view to promoting their use among United Nations bodies, including as a complement to existing international guidelines for specific services or in developing particular guidelines for services that are not covered by such instruments;

7. *Encourages* Governments and partners to provide technical and financial support to the future work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on access to basic services for all, especially for promoting the implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all in interested countries and regions;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

8 HSP/GC/22/2/Add.6.

9 Ibid.

HSP/GC/22/L.4

South-South cooperation in human settlements

The Governing Council,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 adopting the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which recognizes the achievements and great potential of South-South cooperation and encourages the promotion of such cooperation, as a means of sharing best practices and providing enhanced technical cooperation,

Reaffirming the increased importance of South-South cooperation to help developing countries, at their request and under their ownership and leadership, to develop capacities in order to achieve their national goals, with special emphasis on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming the criteria established for the country-level activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and deployment of Habitat programme managers and the progress made in the elaboration of United Nations Human Settlements Programme country programmes,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen the integration of South-South cooperation in undertaking activities under the approved programme of work and, to that end, to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system;
 2. *Also requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to use the benefits of experience, expertise, technologies, human resources and centres of excellence already existing in several countries of the South, such as the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, to achieve the implementation of its programme of work;
 3. *Further requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen its regional presence with a view to enhancing South-South cooperation in the implementation of its work programme and to provide and continue its support for efforts in subregional and regional cooperation in human settlements and urban development;
 4. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations to provide financial resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the purpose of further facilitating South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable urban development through capacity-building and policy advice to developing countries in line with the focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, including through the best practices database;
 5. *Calls upon* Member States in a position to do so to strengthen their support for South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, especially by mobilizing financial resources on a sustainable basis, by providing technical assistance and by encouraging city-to-city cooperation;
 6. *Welcomes* the cooperation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the United Nations Development Programme, and calls upon the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to expand its collaboration with that unit;
 7. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to contribute to the Secretary-General's report to the forthcoming High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and to participate in that conference;
 8. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the progress made in promoting South-South cooperation in human settlements to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.
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