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Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

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

## **Global Report on Human Settlements 2009**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. The *Global Report on Human Settlements* is a flagship report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The 2009 edition of the report is provisionally titled *Sustainable Urbanization: Revisiting the Role of Urban Planning*. The report reviews recent global trends in urban planning against the background of current and emerging urban challenges, including rapid urbanization, proliferation of slums, increasing urban poverty and informality, urban sprawl and climate change. It assesses emerging innovative approaches to urban planning, in terms of both process and content, together with recent practices in the monitoring and evaluation of urban plans and in planning education. On this basis, the report suggests possible ways in which urban planning could be reformed to tackle current and emerging urban problems more effectively.
2. Through its resolution 34/114 of 14 December 1979, the General Assembly mandated UN-Habitat to prepare a global report on human settlements every five years. Reaffirming this commitment, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) requested UN-Habitat “to analyse and monitor major trends in urbanization and the impact of policies for urban and rural settlements” and “to track progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda”.<sup>1</sup>
3. The General Assembly further reaffirmed this mandate through its resolution 55/194 of 20 December 2000 (section VI, paragraph 1), by which it encouraged Member States and Habitat Agenda partners “to provide support for the preparation of the *Global report on human settlements* ... on a biennial basis so as to raise awareness of human settlements and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world”.
4. The 2009 report (as set out in the annex to the present note) is distributed to the Governing Council as a draft. It will be published in book format in August 2009 and its global dissemination will begin in late September 2009.

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\* HSP/GC/22/1.

1 Habitat Agenda, para. 228 (m).

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## **Annex**