



UNITED
NATIONS

HSP

HSP/GC/22/1/Add.1

UN HABITAT

Governing Council
of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

Distr. General
23 March 2009

Original: English

Twenty-second session

Nairobi, 30 March–3 April 2009

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda

Addendum

Annotations to the provisional agenda, including organization of work

Note by the secretariat

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

1. The twenty-second session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) will be opened at 10 a.m., on Monday, 30 March 2009 by the President of the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, or, in her absence, by one of the other officers of the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

Item 2. Election of officers

2. In accordance with rule 17 of its rules of procedure, the Governing Council will elect a president, three vice-presidents and a rapporteur. The geographical distribution of officers elected at previous sessions of the Governing Council is shown in annex II below.

Documentation

Annotations to the provisional agenda, including organization of work
(HSP/GC/22/1/Add.1: paragraphs 2 and 3 of annex III) – **for decision**

Item 3. Credentials

3. Under rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the credentials of representatives must be submitted to the Executive Director at the latest before the end of the first meeting of a session of the Governing Council. The Bureau must then examine such credentials and report on them without delay to the Governing Council.

* HSP/GC/22/1.

Item 4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

4. Under this item, the Governing Council will adopt its agenda for the twenty-second session and thereafter decide on the organization of work for the session. The provisional agenda was approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, held in Nairobi from 16 to 20 April 2007. Notes by the Executive Director proposing an organizational structure and a timetable for the twenty-second session appear below in annexes III and IV.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (HSP/GC/22/1) – **for decision**

Provisional agenda: Addendum: Annotations to the provisional agenda, including organization of work: Note by the secretariat (HSP/GC/22/1/Add.1) – **for decision**

List of documents before the Governing Council (HSP/GC/22/INF/1) – **for information**

Item 5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

5. Under this item, the Executive Director will report to the Governing Council on, among other things, the implementation of the mandate and work programme of UN-Habitat and on the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

Documentation

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Report of the Executive Director (HSP/GC/22/2) – **for decision**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Report of the Executive Director: Addendum: Report of the Executive Director on the fourth session of the World Urban Forum (HSP/GC/22/2/Add.1) – **for decision**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Report of the Executive Director: Addendum: Progress report on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2008–2013 (HSP/GC/22/2/Add.2) – **for decision**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Report of the Executive Director: Addendum: Efficiency and effectiveness of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Note by the Executive Director (HSP/GC/22/2/Add.3) – **for decision**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Report of the Executive Director: Addendum: Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme (HSP/GC/22/2/Add.4) – **for decision**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Report of the Executive Director: Addendum: Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations (HSP/GC/22/2/Add.5) – **for decision**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Report of the Executive Director: Addendum: International guidelines on access to basic services for all (HSP/GC/22/2/Add.6) – **for decision**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Report of the Executive Director: Addendum: Concept paper on UN-Habitat country-level activities (HSP/GC/22/2/Add.7) – **for decision**

Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period: Note by the secretariat (HSP/GC/22/3) – **for decision**

Report of 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 (HSP/GC/22/3/Add.1) – **for decision**

Report of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum: Note by the secretariat (HSP/GC/22/INF/2) – **for information**

Country activities report 2009: Note by the secretariat (HSP/GC/22/INF/3) – **for information**

Global Report on Human Settlements 2009: Note by the secretariat (HSP/GC/22/INF/6) – **for information**

Item 6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council

6. Pursuant to Governing Council resolution 20/21 of April 2005, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives recommended to the Bureau of the Governing Council for the twenty-first session that the theme of that session should be “Promoting affordable housing finance systems in an urbanizing world in the face of the financial crisis and climate change”. Accordingly, the Governing Council will have for its consideration the report by the Executive Director on that special theme.

Documentation

Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council: Report by the Executive Director: Promoting affordable housing finance systems in an urbanizing world in the face of the global financial crisis and climate change (HSP/GC/22/4) – **for decision**

Item 7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2010–2011

7. The work programme of UN-Habitat is synchronized with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations as a whole. Consequently, the current 2008–2009 work programme will end on 31 December 2009. Accordingly, the Executive Director will submit to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-second session a draft work programme and programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011.

Documentation

Draft work programme and budget for the biennium 2010–2011: Report by the Executive Director (HSP/GC/22/5) – **for decision**

Draft work programme and budget for the biennium 2010–2011: Report by the Executive Director: Addendum: Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (HSP/GC/22/5/Add.1) – **for decision**

Draft work programme and budget for the biennium 2010–2011: Report by the Executive Director: Addendum: Gender equality action plan (HSP/GC/22/5/Add.2) – **for decision**

Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as at 28 February 2009: Note by the secretariat (HSP/GC/22/INF/4) – **for information**

United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: Financial report for the biennium ended 31 December 2007 and report of the Board of Auditors: Note by the secretariat (HSP/GC/22/INF/5) – **for information**

Item 8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council

8. Under this item, the Governing Council will adopt a provisional agenda for its twenty-third session and decide on the date and other arrangements for that session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council (HSP/GC/22/6) – **for decision**

Item 9. Other matters

9. Under this item, the Governing Council will consider matters which, although not covered under any particular agenda item, are believed to merit its attention.

Item 10. Adoption of the report of the session

10. In accordance with paragraph 7 of section I A of General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the Governing Council will adopt the report on the work of its twenty-second session for submission to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

Item 11. Closure of the session

11. It is expected that the Governing Council will conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Friday, 3 April 2009.

Annex I

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Membership as at 26 March 2009*
(58 members)

African States (16)

Burkina Faso (2011)
Burundi (2010)
Congo (2011)
Equatorial Guinea (2010)
Ethiopia ((2012)
Kenya (2011)
Mauritania (2010)
Niger (2010)
Rwanda (2012)
Senegal (2010)
Sudan (2012)
Swaziland (2011)
Tunisia (2012)
Zambia (2011)
Zimbabwe (2010)

One vacant seat

Latin American and Caribbean States (10)

Antigua and Barbuda (2012)
Argentina (2010)
Brazil (2011)
Chile (2010)
Grenada (2010)
Guatemala (2012)
Honduras (2011)
Jamaica (2011)
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2010)

One vacant seat

Eastern European States (6)

Armenia (2012)
Czech Republic (2012)
Poland (2010)
Romania (2011)
Russian Federation (2010)
Serbia (2011)

Western European and other States (13)

Finland (2010)
France (2012)
Germany (2011)
Israel (2011)
Italy (2010)
Netherlands (2010)
Norway (2012)
Spain (2012)
United States of America (2010)

Four vacant seats

Asian States (13)

Bahrain (2011)
Bangladesh (2012)
China (2012)
India (2011)
Indonesia (2010)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2010)
Iraq (2011)
Japan (2010)
Pakistan (2010)
Republic of Korea (2012)
Saudi Arabia (2011)
Sri Lanka (2011)

One vacant seat

* Information received from the Economic and Social Council as of 26 March 2009.

Annex II

Geographical distribution of officers elected at previous sessions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

Year	Session of the Governing Council	President	Vice-Presidents	Rapporteur
1978	First	Western European and other States (Sweden)	African States (Malawi) Eastern European States (Poland) Latin American States (Mexico)	Asian States (Philippines)
1979	Second	African States (Kenya)	Asian States (Pakistan) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Eastern European States (Poland)
1980	Third	Latin American States (Mexico)	African States (Nigeria) Asian States (Iraq) Eastern European States (USSR)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)
1981	Fourth	Asian States (Philippines)	African States (Lesotho) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (Federal Republic of Germany)	Latin American States (Jamaica)
1982	Fifth	Eastern European States (USSR)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Latin American States (Jamaica) Western European and other States (Canada)	African States (Egypt)
1983	Sixth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Zambia) Eastern European States (Bulgaria) Latin American States (Argentina)	Asian States (Bangladesh)
1984	Seventh	African States (Gabon)	Asian States (India) Latin American States (Chile) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Eastern European States (USSR)
1985	Eighth	Latin American States (Jamaica)	African States (Tunisia) Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (Hungary)	Western European and other States (Greece)
1986	Ninth	Western European and other States (Turkey)	African States (Kenya) Asian States (Bangladesh) Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American States (Chile)
1987	Tenth	Eastern European States (Bulgaria)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Colombia) Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Kenya)
1988	Eleventh	Asian States (India)	African States (Botswana) Latin American States (Brazil) Western European and other States (United Kingdom)	Eastern European States (Poland)

1989	Twelfth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Gabon) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Asian States (Sri Lanka)
1991	Thirteenth	African States (Zimbabwe)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (USSR) Latin American States (Brazil)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)
1993	Fourteenth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Uganda) Asian States (Philippines) Eastern European States (Romania)	Latin American States (Chile)
1995	Fifteenth	Eastern European States (Russian Federation)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Venezuela) Western European and other States (United Kingdom)	African States (Cameroon)
1997	Sixteenth	Asian States (Bangladesh)	African States (Kenya) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Norway)	Eastern European States (Romania)
1999	Seventeenth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Senegal) Eastern European States (Bulgaria) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Asian States (Iran, (Islamic Republic of))
2001	Eighteenth	African States (Algeria)	Asian States (Bangladesh) Eastern European States (Russian Federation) Latin American States (Argentina)	Western European and other States (Turkey)
2003	Nineteenth	Western European and other States (Sweden)	African States (Malawi) Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American States (Chile)
2005	Twentieth	Eastern European (Czech Republic)	Asian States (Philippines) Latin American States (Argentina) Western European and other States (Germany)	African States (Nigeria)
2007	Twenty-first	Asian States (India)	African States (Uganda) Latin American States (Argentina) Western European and other States (Canada)	Eastern European States (Russian Federation)

Under the principle of geographical rotation provided for in rule 17, paragraph 2, of the Governing Council's rules of procedure, the following regional groups should provide candidates for the offices in question for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council:

2009	Twenty-second	Latin American States	African States Eastern European States Western European and other States	Asian States
------	---------------	-----------------------	--	--------------

Annex III

Proposed organizational arrangements for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

Note by the Executive Director

1. The Governing Council may find it conducive to the efficient conduct of its work during the twenty-second session to adopt the organizational arrangements set out below. These proposed organizational arrangements have been prepared in line with the recommendations of Governing Council resolution 20/21 on organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council, which called upon the Committee of the Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, acting as the Council's intersessional subsidiary body, to recommend to the Governing Council further proposals for improving the structure and organization of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council. At its twenty-fourth meeting, on 7 December 2006, the Committee of Permanent Representatives approved a set of such proposals for the twenty-first session and all future sessions, which are reflected in the present note, especially with regard to the high-level segment, the dialogue and the theme.

A. Bureau

2. In accordance with rule 17 of the Governing Council's rules of procedure, the Bureau should consist of a president, three vice-presidents and a rapporteur, elected with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution by rotation among the regional groups of States. Annex II to the present notification shows the geographical distribution of members of the Bureau at previous sessions of the Governing Council.

3. As provided for in rule 18 of the Governing Council's rules of procedure, one of the vice-presidents should be designated to chair the sessional committee of the whole referred to in paragraph 17 below. The remaining two vice-presidents would assist the President of the Governing Council directly in his or her duties in plenary and chair the ad hoc drafting committee referred to in paragraph 18 below.

B. Plenary

4. Following consultations with the Bureau of the Governing Council, it is recommended that the plenary divide its work into two segments; first, a high-level segment, with interventions primarily by ministers and other heads of delegations, which would be held on the first and second day; and, second, a dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to be held on the third day.

C. High-level segment

5. It is suggested that the high-level segment focus its discussions on the theme and the theme paper for the twenty-second session together with aspects related to agenda items 5 (activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters) and 7 (work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2010–2011).

6. The Executive Director wishes to recall that, in its resolution 20/21, the Governing Council decided that the theme of the dialogue should provide a link between the high-level segment and the dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners and provide for cohesion in the policy discussions in the plenary.

7. With a view to accommodating the 60–80 delegations that normally attend the sessions of the Governing Council, it is recommended that during the high-level segment each delegation be allowed a maximum of five minutes speaking time and that this limit be strictly adhered to. In this context, it should be noted that part of the morning meeting on the first day will be taken up by organizational matters.

8. In establishing the list of speakers for the high-level segment, precedence will be given to ministers and deputy ministers followed by other heads of governmental delegations, plus a limited number of statements by local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, as per rules 64 and 65 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council.

D. Dialogues with local authorities and other partners

9. By operative paragraph 2 of its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, the Governing Council decided “to provide, at future sessions [of the Governing Council], opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments; such dialogues may, as appropriate, serve as an input to the deliberations [of the Governing Council]”.

10. Accordingly and in line with the relevant operative paragraphs of resolution 20/21 of 8 April 2005 (set forth in annex VI below), the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives recommended to the Bureau of the Governing Council for the twenty-first session that the theme for the twenty-second session should be: promoting affordable housing finance systems in an urbanizing world in the face of the financial crisis and climate change, with which recommendation the President of the Governing Council, on behalf of the Bureau, concurred.

11. In pursuance of the above resolutions, and with a view to increasing the participation and contribution of local authorities and other partners in the work of the Governing Council and towards the achievement of common goals to achieve the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and relevant Millennium Development Goals and the aims outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, arrangements have been made for the dialogue with local authorities and other partners to be held during the plenary meeting on the third day, as indicated in annex IV to the present note. This dialogue, which will be on the theme mentioned in paragraph 10 above, will be based on the format followed by Committee II at the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, whereby representatives of partner groups will be given an opportunity to make a substantive presentation followed by a dialogue or discussion between Governments and partners on the presentations.

12. To this end, local authorities and other partners are encouraged to submit, in advance, a written summary of their presentation to the secretariat for distribution to all participants ahead of the meeting.

13. It is expected that the presentations to be made by representatives of local authorities and other partners will be the outcome of consultations by these groups with non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, professionals, researchers and labour unions. Arrangements will be made for local authorities and each group of partners to have, if they so wish, consultations in Nairobi immediately prior to the twenty-second session of the Governing Council, or at the time and venue of their choice.

14. Detailed information on the organization of the dialogue will be forwarded at a later date with the pre-session documents.

E. Summaries by the President

15. At the end of the high-level segment and the dialogue, the President, drawing from the deliberations in these two plenary segments, will prepare a summary of the main issues raised in the high-level segment and the conclusions or recommendations made during the dialogue. This summary will reflect the main thrust of the discussions and key positions expressed during the two segments and will be submitted to plenary for endorsement. Any possible draft resolution that may emerge out of the discussions at these plenary segments will be referred to the drafting committee for its action.

16. Once endorsed by the Governing Council as an accurate reflection of what transpired in the high-level segment and in the dialogue, the President’s conclusions and recommendations will serve as guidelines for follow-up action by Governments, local authorities, other partners and the secretariat, specifically in support of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2008–2013.

F. Sessional committee of the whole

17. Bearing in mind the organization of work for previous sessions of the Governing Council and the above recommendations on the work of the plenary, the Governing Council may wish to establish a sessional committee of the whole, which would be given responsibility for the detailed consideration of

agenda items 5, 7 and 8, with the remaining items being considered by the Governing Council sitting in plenary.

G. Drafting committee

18. At its nineteenth session, on an informal basis, the Governing Council established an ad hoc open-ended drafting committee under the chairmanship of one of the vice-presidents to pre-screen draft resolutions submitted by delegations, with a view to merging, reconciling or clarifying them, as necessary, prior to their consideration by the Governing Council in its plenary meetings. The Governing Council may wish to continue this practice, which was widely felt to have enhanced the efficiency of its work, with the report of the drafting committee first passing through the Committee of the Whole for endorsement prior to final adoption by the Governing Council.

H. Proposed timetable

19. A proposed organization of work and timetable for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council is provided in annex IV to the present note.

20. The agenda for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council and a list of documents corresponding to each agenda item is provided in annex V to the present note.

Annex IV

Proposed organization of work and timetable for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

Nairobi, 30 March–3 April 2009

		Plenary	Committee of the Whole	Drafting committee
Monday, 30 March	a.m.	Opening of session Organizational matters: high-level segment: Agenda items 1–4	-	-
	p.m.	High-level segment: Agenda items 5–7	Agenda item 5	-
Tuesday, 31 March	a.m.	High-level segment: Agenda items 5–7	Agenda item 5	Consultations on draft resolutions
	p.m.	High-level segment: Agenda items 5–7	Agenda item 7	
Wednesday, 1 April	a.m. and p.m.	Dialogue between Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners on the special theme: agenda item 6 (full day)	Agenda item 7	Consultations on draft resolutions
Thursday, 2 April	a.m. p.m.	-	Agenda item 8	Consultations on draft resolutions
Friday, 3 April	a.m.	-	Adoption of draft reports on items 5 and 7. Approval of draft decision on item 8.	
	p.m.	Chair's summary of high-level segment and dialogue Draft reports of plenary on items 1–4 Draft reports of the Committee of the Whole Report on draft resolutions Agenda items 8–11		

Annex V

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

A. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2010–2011.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

B. List of documents before the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

Agenda item	Symbol	Item
		Notification by the Executive Director
		Addendum: Notification by the Executive Director
4	HSP/GC/22/1	Provisional agenda
4	HSP/GC/22/1/Add.1	Addendum: Annotations to the provisional agenda, including organization of work: Note by the secretariat
4	HSP/GC/22/INF/1	List of documents before the Governing Council
5	HSP/GC/22/2	Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Report of the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/22/2/Add.1	Addendum: Report of the Executive Director on the fourth session of the World Urban Forum
5	HSP/GC/22/2/Add.2	Addendum: Progress report on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2008–2013
5	HSP/GC/22/2/Add.3	Addendum: Efficiency and effectiveness of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Note by the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/22/2/Add.4	Addendum: Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme:
5	HSP/GC/22/2/Add.5	Addendum: Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations
5	HSP/GC/22/2/Add.6	Addendum: International guidelines on access to basic services for all
5	HSP/GC/22/2/Add.7	Addendum: Concept paper on UN-Habitat country-level activities
5	HSP/GC/22/3	Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period: Note by the secretariat
5	HSP/GC/22/3/Add.1	Addendum: Draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
5	HSP/GC/22/INF/2	Report of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum: Note by the secretariat
5	HSP/GC/22/INF/3	Country activities report 2009: Note by the secretariat
5	HSP/GC/22/INF/6	Global Report on Human Settlements 2009: Note by the secretariat
6	HSP/GC/22/4	Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council: Report by the Executive Director
7	HSP/GC/22/5	Draft work programme and budget for the biennium 2010–2011: Report by the Executive Director
7	HSP/GC/22/5/Add.1	Addendum: Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Note by the secretariat
7	HSP/GC/22/5/Add.2	Addendum: Gender equality action plan
7	HSP/GC/22/INF/4	Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as at 28 February

Agenda item	Symbol	Item
7	HSP/GC/22/INF/5	2009: Note by the secretariat United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: Financial report for the biennium ended 31 December 2007 and report of the Board of Auditors: Note by the secretariat
8	HSP/GC/22/6	Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council

Annex VI

Resolution 20/21: Organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 5/15 of 7 May 1982, in which it decided to designate the subjects of the special themes of its sessions two years in advance,

Also recalling its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, in which it decided to provide, at future sessions of the Council, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments,

Further recalling its resolution 19/5 of 9 May 2003, in which it decided that a continuing focus of its twentieth and future sessions should be the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum-dwellers,

Noting that the World Urban Forum now provides an opportunity for extensive dialogue among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners,

Recognizing the importance during sessions of the Governing Council of a focused, interactive high-level segment on priority policy issues,

1 *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on improving preparations for the Governing Council, which are contained in the appendix to the present resolution;

2 *Decides* that the special themes referred to in resolution 5/15 shall no longer be chosen two years in advance, but shall instead be selected by the Bureau of the Governing Council at least six months before the start of each session of the Governing Council, on the basis of advice from the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into account the outcome of the sessions of the World Urban Forum and the requirement for a continuing focus on the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers;

3 *Also decides* that the high-level segment and the dialogues referred to in its resolution 16/12 should normally focus on those special themes and should constitute the substantive debate on the special themes;

4 *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to recommend to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, through the Bureau of the Governing Council, further proposals for improving the structure and organizational arrangements of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council including, in particular, the high-level segment;

5 *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare a background paper for use by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in complying with the request set forth in the preceding paragraph.