

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Nairobi, 30 March–3 April 2009

Agenda item 5

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

Draft resolution on the World Urban Forum

Submission by the drafting committee

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,¹

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, 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,

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

Noting also with appreciation the report of the Executive Director on the fourth session of the World Urban Forum,²

Noting further with appreciation the financial and in-kind contributions made by a number of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to help in the preparation of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum,

Noting 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;
- (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 and financial transparency;
- (i) Timely negotiation of host country agreements;
- (j) Timely submission and distribution of pre-session documents;
- (k) Need to strengthen UN-Habitat internal management processes;
- (l) 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. *Invites* Governments and all other Habitat partners 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.