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Governing Council  
of the United Nations Human  
Settlements Programme

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**Twenty-second session**

Nairobi, 30 March - 3 April 2009

**Resolution 22/4: Strengthening the development of urban young people**

*The Governing Council,*

*Acknowledging* that a high proportion of the world's population is young, especially in the developing world, and that that segment of the population is affected by the problems of unemployment and unsustainable urban development, issues which may be further exacerbated by the current global economic crisis,

*Recognizing* that youth are key agents for sustainable human settlement development and a vital resource in attaining the development goals related to the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* its commitment in paragraph 45 (e) of the Habitat Agenda<sup>2</sup> to the objective of working in partnership with youth in order to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare youth for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development,

*Acknowledging* the progress made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme towards mainstreaming the participation of youth in slum upgrading and other programmes and also acknowledging the establishment of the Youth Advisory Board at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Nanjing, China, in 2008,

*Noting with appreciation* the establishment by the Executive Director of the special fund with the Human Settlements Foundation, known as the "Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-Led Development", which supports youth-led initiatives, targeting support to those young people who are most in need of assistance, in particular young girls,

*Recognizing* the success of the World Urban Youth Forum as a platform for youth engagement in the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in particular its role in proposing the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development at the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2006, and launching the Fund at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum on 4 November 2008,

*Recalling* [General Assembly resolution 62/126 of 5 February 2008](#), which underlined the strategic importance of initiatives such as the Fund and invited member States to contribute to this fund, and [resolution 19/13 of 9 May 2003](#), which invited Governments and other partners to provide or increase their support to the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on urban youth development programmes,

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution from the Government of Norway for the establishment of the Opportunities Fund,

*Considering* the positive steps made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and partners, towards implementing the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development,

1. *Encourages* Governments to give priority and support to youth-led development initiatives and invites multilateral agencies, Governments, the private sector and civil society to listen to youth and develop policies on their development based on participatory processes;

2. *Invites* multilateral agencies, Governments, the private sector and civil society to promote the Opportunities Fund to youth-led organizations within their respective regions and to encourage such organizations to apply for the Fund;

3. *Also invites* multilateral agencies, Governments, the private sector and civil society to contribute voluntarily, wherever possible, to the Opportunities Fund;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to undertake the following activities in compliance with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the work programme for the biennium 2010–2011:

(a) To strengthen further the institutional management and operations of the Fund and build the capacities of regional partners to manage the Fund better;

1 [General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000](#).

2 [Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements \(Habitat II\), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996](#) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

(b) To promote upscaling of support for marginalized groups, such as youth, and for youth-led initiatives and to enhance learning potential for the Fund by supporting an approach taking into consideration best practices, research and replication;

(c) To promote the exchange of experiences and good practices learned from the Opportunities Fund, which will support the normative agenda of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other United Nations agencies;

(d) To continue to strengthen and mainstream the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the engagement of young people in human settlements development and in taking measures in relation to their livelihoods;

(e) To provide the necessary mechanisms for the World Urban Youth Forum to be recognized as an integral part of the World Urban Forum;

(f) To evaluate the operation of the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development and to submit a report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that urban youth development issues are reflected substantively in future issues of the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and of the *State of the World's Cities* report;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.  
*7th plenary meeting*

03-Apr-09