



UNITED  
NATIONS

HSP

HSP/GC/23/2

UN HABITAT

Governing Council  
of the United Nations Human  
Settlements Programme

Distr. General  
21 January 2011

Original: English

---

**Twenty-third session**

Nairobi, 11–15 April 2011

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

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

## **Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

### **Report of the Executive Director**

#### **Introduction**

1. The present report summarizes activities undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in response to the resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session. It is complemented by other reports that provide more detailed and additional information on activities undertaken in response to specific resolutions. The subjects covered by these reports (and the documents in which they are discussed) are:

- (a) Review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat (HSP/GC/23/5/Add.1);
- (b) Fifth session of the World Urban Forum (HSP/GC/23/5/Add.2 and Add.3);
- (c) Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4);
- (d) Coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities (HSP/ GC/23/2/Add.5);
- (e) Joint progress report of the executive directors of UNEP and UN-Habitat: joint activities in the area of urban environment (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.6);
- (f) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat partners in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.7).

---

\* HSP/GC/23/1.

K1170240 240211



## **I. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in response to resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session**

### **A. Resolution 22/1: Third session of the United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development**

2. Following its adoption by the Governing Council, resolution 22/1 of 3 April 2009, together with other resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session, was submitted to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly. In his report entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)” presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, the Secretary-General recommended to the General Assembly that it should consider convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III).

3. The objective of the conference would be to undertake a comprehensive critical review and assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; to identify major constraints hindering implementation of the Agenda; to address new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since Habitat II, including climate change and urban safety and security; to agree on a development agenda capable of responding to the new challenges and the changing role of cities; to address ways of strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable urban development and housing; and to evaluate and redefine the governance structure of UN-Habitat and its relationship with strategic development partners as part of the new agenda for housing and sustainable urban development.

4. In response, the General Assembly, by its resolution 64/207 of 21 December 2009, took note of the recommendation made by the Governing Council in its resolution 22/1 and, having considered the question of convening Habitat III in 2016, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the question, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. In follow-up to this request, UN-Habitat has prepared a draft report for consideration by the Governing Council (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4). The final draft of the report, as approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session, will constitute the Governing Council’s input to the Secretary-General’s report requested in resolution 64/207.

### **B. Resolution 22/2: Affordable housing finance**

5. The operational work of UN-Habitat on affordable housing finance has been implemented through two programmes: the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme and the Slum Upgrading Facility pilot programme. These programmes use a catalytic investment approach to integrate market-based solutions with community-led efforts and government inputs as the most effective way to tackle inadequate housing, water and sanitation.

6. Significant progress has been made through the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme. Five loans were disbursed in five countries and territories in 2010 (Nepal, Nicaragua, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania) with a total loan value of \$2,750,000. Funds leveraged through this seed funding are expected to reach over \$500 million, with the initial round of lending supporting the creation and upgrading of over 30,000 affordable social housing units in five countries. A sixth project for the remaining loan funds of \$250,000 is being developed.

7. The Slum Upgrading Facility pilot programme has established local finance facilities in Ghana, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania. Grant agreements totalling over \$6.5 million were concluded under the programme, attracting government commitments of some \$1.4 million. Eight projects were implemented and have attracted commercial lending of over \$500,000. Technical assistance, focusing on strengthening business and financial capacity, has been provided continually by UN-Habitat to local finance facilities, non-governmental organization networks and local authorities.

8. An independent external evaluation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme was carried out as it reached the end of a four-year experimental period from 2007 to 2011, pursuant to Governing Council resolution 21/10 of 20 April. The Slum Upgrading Facility pilot programme also came to an end in December 2010 and was the subject of a similar independent



evaluation. The conclusions of both evaluations, including lessons learned on approaches to affordable housing finance, will assist the Governing Council to determine future UN-Habitat work in this area.

9. The normative work of UN-Habitat in the area of affordable housing has focused on various dimensions of affordability, including informal settlements and finance; community-based finance approaches to affordable housing; social housing and related finance models; housing cooperative approaches; and social investment funds. Two guides, one on preparing a housing finance strategy and the other on municipal finance, were produced by UN-Habitat as tools for Governments and municipalities.

10. In recognition of the role of economic development in solving affordable housing problems, UN-Habitat has strengthened its efforts to promote the economic development of towns and cities, including by producing a report on housing as a tool for poverty reduction in Ghana, and launching the Global Urban Economic Dialogue series to generate debate and solutions on pressing urban economic development and housing issues. The first dialogue in the series was the Global Dialogue on Better Cities, Better Economies, held at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China, which generated 5,210 media articles. UN-Habitat, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and an Indian housing finance institution, facilitated the establishment of an Asia-Pacific housing finance network. In addition, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the African Union for Housing Finance, has launched its first training programme on affordable housing mechanisms and practices for senior bankers and finance practitioners.

### **C. Resolution 22/3: Cities and climate change**

11. By its resolution 22/3 of 3 April 2009, the Governing Council encouraged UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to continue work on cities and climate change and to continue playing a complementary role in climate-change matters within the United Nations system. In response to the resolution, UN-Habitat developed a climate change strategy for the period 2010–2013, highlighting the importance of implementation and action across the programme. As part of this strategy, UN-Habitat has launched a cities and climate change initiative, which is intended to promote dialogue between the national and local levels, to raise awareness on the vulnerability of the urban poor to climate change and to develop local government capacity to respond to climate change challenges.

12. The initiative's official launch took place in Oslo in March 2009. The initiative began in four pilot cities: Esmeraldas, Ecuador; Kampala; Maputo; and Sorsogon City, Philippines. These cities carried out assessments of hazards, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacity and developed action plans for enhancing climate resilience that are now being implemented. An additional five African cities in four countries – Burkina Faso, Namibia, Rwanda and Senegal – joined the initiative at the African Local Government Climate Roadmap Pre-Copenhagen Summit in South Africa in 2009. Cities in nine Asian countries, including four small island developing States in the Pacific, joined the initiative in 2010.

13. UN-Habitat has been granted formal observer status at meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and attended its thirty-first session, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 26 to 29 October 2009, at which the outline of the Panel's fifth assessment report was approved, including a provision for new chapters on urban issues and human settlements in the adaptation and mitigation working groups.

14. In addition, UN-Habitat and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability have worked together on many issues and events, including the Resilient Cities Congress held in Bonn, Germany, and the local government climate sessions held during the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in December 2009. UN-Habitat has also partnered with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability to prepare a capacity-building tool on cities and carbon finance, and with the International Institute for Environment and Development to prepare a tool on developing local climate change plans.

15. UN-Habitat joined forces with the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Cities Alliance to achieve a more coordinated and focused response to climate change issues facing cities, particularly in developing countries. The collaborating entities released for public comment an international standard for determining greenhouse-gas emissions for cities at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in March 2010.

16. UN-Habitat is partnering with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction on the "Making Cities Resilient" campaign, working with 150 cities worldwide on the disaster risk reduction component of climate change. As part of UN-Habitat collaboration with the private sector, ARCADIS, a Netherlands-based infrastructure and environment firm, is providing work without charge in support of UN-Habitat, including in the area of cities and climate change.



17. The 2011 edition of the UN-Habitat global report on human settlements, entitled “Cities and Climate Change”, whose launch is timed to coincide with the twenty-third session of the Governing Council, sets out specific policy recommendations for city-level actions to mitigate greenhouse-gas emissions and adapt to climate change.
18. UN-Habitat and UNEP jointly hosted the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Nairobi in September 2009. The meeting was preceded by a one-day symposium on the theme of climate change education and sustainable cities.
19. Mainstreaming of climate change in the focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan has begun, specifically in focus area 3 on adequate access to land and housing and focus area 4 on environmentally sustainable basic infrastructure and services.
20. In partnership with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN-Habitat has developed and launched a guide on supporting local action for biodiversity: the role of national Governments, which contains recommendations on ways in which national and local governments can contribute to local-level biodiversity management while tackling climate change concerns.

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

21. In response to Governing Council resolution 22/4 of 3 April 2009, UN-Habitat has focused on strengthening the institutional management and operations of the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development, engaging its regional offices in processing applications to the Fund. The Fund has been strengthened through the recruitment of additional staff and the involvement of the national Habitat programme managers in its promotion in the regions, the vetting of potential fund recipients and project monitoring. The efficiency of fund administration has been greatly enhanced by the establishment of an online database and a portal, accessible in English, French and Spanish, for processing applications to the Fund.
22. UN-Habitat has made progress in harnessing experiences with the Fund by launching an online global help desk with the aim of engaging young people, agencies led by young people, researchers and policymakers in the exchange of experiences and good practices in development led by young people.
23. A parallel activity to the help desk is a research network established to facilitate and strengthen the linkage between the normative work of UN-Habitat related to young people and academic research. A key component of the research agenda is a pioneering comprehensive literature review of research on development led by young people conducted by prominent international research partners, including the Norwegian University of Science and Technology; the Children, Youth and Environment Centre, University of Colorado (United States of America); E-Social Sciences (India); and the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (Canada). One research publication has been completed: *World Urban Forum Dialogue Series: Youth in Cities*.
24. With funding from the Government of Norway, the Youth Empowerment Programme has been able to mainstream issues affecting young people into the work of a number of UN-Habitat branches, sections and units such as the Urban Environmental Planning Branch; the Gender Mainstreaming Unit; the Shelter Branch, including the Global Land Tool Network; and the Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch. The Safer Cities Programme also mainstreams young people’s issues in its work, as demonstrated by the launch of the “Youth for a Safer Africa” initiative on the margins of the football World Cup in South Africa in July 2010. The Training and Capacity-building Branch is supporting mainstreaming efforts by developing training materials to enhance the engagement of young people in urban governance and development. It is also developing an electronic learning reference group to assist in determining the scope and topics of courses relevant to young people. In addition, a policy brief to feed into the Global Urban Campaign and a draft strategic framework for mainstreaming young people’s issues have been developed.
25. The World Urban Youth Assembly constitutes an integral part of the World Urban Forum. During the Forum’s fifth session, in March 2010, over 500 young people from all over the world participated in the two-day Youth Assembly. A round-table discussion on young people and sports and a meeting of the youth research network were held during the session. The budget line for the Youth Assembly will be included as an integral part of the budget for future Forum sessions.
26. Young people’s development issues have been substantially reflected in the 2010–2011 State of the World’s Cities report, in the form of a supplement entitled *State of the Urban Youth 2010/2011: Leveling the Playing Field*, launched during the Forum’s fifth session. Young people’s issues are also integrated in the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2011: Cities and Climate Change*.



27. The operations of the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development were evaluated as part of the overall evaluation of the Youth Empowerment Programme. The results are reported in document HSP/GC/23/5/Add.4.

#### **E. Resolution 22/5: Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

28. Pursuant to Governing Council resolution 22/5 of 3 April 2009, phase I of the governance review of UN-Habitat focused on the preparation of the review's terms of reference by a joint team comprising members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and of the UN-Habitat secretariat in June 2009. In line with the terms of reference, a hierarchical organizational structure for the review was established, comprising an open-ended contact group, a regionally balanced implementation team, and seven assessment teams, with equal representation of the Committee and the Secretariat in each. The implementation and assessment teams began their work in September 2009.

29. Phase II of the review began in January 2010, focusing on the improvement of UN-Habitat governance at headquarters in Nairobi, i.e., on actions that could be implemented by the Secretariat, with the approval of the Committee, but without reference to United Nations Headquarters. Following a workshop, research by the seven assessment teams and a series of meetings of the implementation team, a list of 29 short-term measures (known as "quick wins") was proposed and approved by the Committee on 15 September 2010.

30. Phase III began with an implementation team workshop in early November 2010, which focused on improving UN-Habitat governance within the wider United Nations system, especially in the context of its relationship with the General Assembly, the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination. A further list of proposed medium-term and long-term wins was presented to and approved by the Committee at its thirty-ninth regular meeting, on 16 December 2010. The details of the outcome of the review's phases, including phases III and IV, are contained in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1.

#### **F. Resolution 22/6: Habitat awards**

31. The inaugural Rafik Hariri Memorial Award was presented at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum to Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Prime Minister of Turkey, for statesmanship, leadership and good governance, including urban renewal work during his tenure as mayor of Istanbul. The first Rafik Hariri Memorial Lecture was also delivered at the session.

32. The second Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman al Khalifa UN-Habitat Award was presented at the Forum's fifth session to the Bento Rubião Foundation of Rio de Janeiro, for its extensive and outstanding land and housing programme for people living in Rio de Janeiro's slums, commonly known as favelas.

33. The Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme, which also acts as the steering committee for the Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment, organized an exhibition at the Forum's fifth session entitled "Urban Best Practices: 25 Success Stories". The exhibition was a collaborative activity, supported by all the Programme's partners and coordinated by the Programme, the Best Practices Hub Vienna and Fundación Hábitat Colombia. The Building and Social Housing Foundation contributed best practices from its World Habitat Awards.

34. The eighth cycle of the Dubai International Award was finalized with the jury selecting 12 winners for 2010 from 480 applications. The winners included Angola, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, El Salvador, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia and Spain.

#### **G. Resolution 22/7: Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2010–2011**

35. In line with Governing Council resolution 22/7 of 3 April 2009, the biennial results-based strategic framework for 2012–2013 has been prepared in a participatory manner in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and in alignment with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan. The elements of the framework, consisting of the subprogramme objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and sub-expected accomplishments, were derived from the refined medium-term strategic and institutional plan's results framework while the focus area policy/strategy papers informed the strategy sections of the document. The document also incorporates lessons learned from the biennial programme performance report and sessions of the World Urban Forum.



36. The proposed biennial work programme and budget for 2012–2013 is built on the strategic framework for 2012–2013, in line with General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, and was prepared in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in alignment with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and with a strong results focus. A robust results chain clearly shows the linkage between outputs, sub-expected accomplishments and expected accomplishments, and how they contribute to the subprogramme objectives.

37. While UN-Habitat has continued working hard to achieve its resource mobilization targets, its 2010 target for non-earmarked resources was not met, mainly because of the global financial crisis. The preliminary income figures for the first year of the biennium were as follows: non-earmarked resources amounted to \$16.7 million, representing 59 per cent of the annual target of \$28.5 million; and earmarked resources amounted to \$166.1 million, exceeding the annual target of \$126 million by 32 per cent. The top 10 donors contributed 74 per cent of the total voluntary contributions, against a target of 70 per cent for the biennium 2010–2011.

38. To support the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan's focus area priorities as reflected in the work programme and taking into account the funding available, an allocation of \$32.2 million was made for the first year of the biennium. To date, all the non-earmarked resources have been allocated to focus area priorities, while 95 per cent of the earmarked resources have been allocated to focus area priorities, in line with current donor agreements. A new internal mechanism for the allocation of non-earmarked funding that is more transparent and results-oriented is now in place. Quarterly performance reports continue to be presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

39. UN-Habitat has continued its efforts to improve the sustainability and predictability of funding through various mechanisms, including increased long-term partnerships with key donors, expansion and consolidation of the donor base and development of improved systems to support resource mobilization efforts. All of these mechanisms are key features of the UN-Habitat resource mobilization strategy.

## **H. Resolution 22/8: Guidelines on access to basic services**

40. By its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009, the Governing Council approved guidelines on access to basic services for all, acknowledging their coherence and complementarity with the international guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities adopted by its resolution 21/3 of 20 April 2007. In the addendum to his report on the activities of UN-Habitat (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.5), the Executive Director highlights major actions undertaken by UN-Habitat in collaboration with interested partners to follow up on these two resolutions.

41. The ultimate objective of the guidelines on decentralization is to promote the strengthening of local authorities and to advocate for their empowerment in the provision of basic services, based on the recognition of the local dimension of basic services.

42. Although the development of both sets of guidelines was inclusive, participatory and based on the documentation of good practices, more remains to be done to adapt them effectively to regional, national and local contexts and to transform them into useful tools for improving legislative, regulatory and operational frameworks.

43. UN-Habitat has therefore developed a comprehensive programme document highlighting three major components of its strategy for the integrated adaptation of both sets of guidelines to national and local situations. The three components are:

- (a) Policy development and advocacy at the regional and national levels;
- (b) Training and capacity development at the regional, national and local levels;
- (c) Monitoring and reporting.

44. Against this background, efforts to mobilize partners have been intensified through a series of consultative dialogues in a number of countries, including Burkina Faso, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico and Viet Nam. A special meeting at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum was devoted to the operationalization of both sets of guidelines; participants from countries including Burundi, Brazil, Chad, Cameroon, China, Eritrea, France, Madagascar, Morocco, Norway, Poland and the United Republic of Tanzania exchanged ideas and experiences on opportunities and challenges, facilitating the formulation of specific recommendations on further steps to be taken.

45. In follow-up to those recommendations, UN-Habitat and the Government of France organized a partners meeting on 27 and 28 October 2010 to begin the selection of pilot countries to pave the way for country-level activities. In this regard, UN-Habitat has, at the request of partners, finalized a



comprehensive handbook intended to guide the coordinated implementation of the guidelines in interested developing countries.

## **I. Resolution 22/9: South-South cooperation in human settlements**

46. In response to Governing Council resolution 22/9 of 3 April 2009, and in line with the “One United Nations” initiative, UN-Habitat has strengthened its cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offices and other United Nations entities, including regional commissions and the World Bank. As the agency in charge of managing the United Nations pavilion at the World Expo 2010, UN-Habitat had the opportunity to collaborate with many United Nations agencies at seminars and other events promoting South-South cooperation.

47. UN-Habitat participated in the sixteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, in February 2010. The Committee is the governing body of the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, which is responsible for promoting and reviewing progress in South-South cooperation around the world. It also ensures coordination of United Nations South-South cooperation activities.

48. Through its various technical cooperation projects and programmes, UN-Habitat has awarded a number of contracts to institutions, enterprises and non-governmental organizations in some developing countries to work in other developing countries.

49. UN-Habitat has continued to support the organization of regional ministerial bodies, including the third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in Solo, Indonesia, in June 2010; the nineteenth Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires in September 2010; and the third African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in Bamako in November 2010.

50. In addition, UN-Habitat has strengthened its network of regional offices, creating a new office in Bangkok and a regional office for the Arab States in Cairo.

51. Several partners have supported UN-Habitat work aimed at facilitating South-South cooperation at the subregional, regional and interregional levels. The most significant work in this respect included the Lake Victoria and Mekong Delta initiatives (subregional); preparation of regional state of cities reports, funded by the Government of Norway (regional); and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, managed jointly by the European Commission, the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and UN-Habitat (interregional).

52. Study tours were organized in all developing regions and subregions to facilitate exchanges of experiences and knowledge. In October 2010, for example, a group of African mayors visited China to familiarize themselves with Chinese methods of urban management.

53. The cooperation between UN-Habitat and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation has been expanded through the organization of several joint meetings, including a joint workshop on how creative economies can lead to a culture of peace, held on 17 and 18 June 2010 at United Nations Headquarters; a joint meeting of the Culture of Peace Economic Initiative and the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 8 October 2010; and the Global South-South Creative Week at the World Expo, October 2010.

54. UN-Habitat participated in the preparations for and deliberations of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009. Its delegation was headed by the Executive Director.

55. During the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat organized a special dialogue on South-South cooperation in human settlements, chaired by the Minister of Cities of the Government of Brazil.

## **J. Resolution 22/10: World Urban Forum**

56. In pursuance of Governing Council resolution 22/10 of 3 April 2009, UN-Habitat engaged an independent consultant to conduct a review of lessons learned from all previous sessions of the World Urban Forum held between 2002 and 2008, as outlined in paragraph 2 of the resolution. The consultant’s final report containing key recommendations was presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in September 2009. The Committee subsequently requested a response from the UN-Habitat management to the review, which was presented to its working group on the World Urban Forum. Recommendations from the review are being used to improve the planning, management and organization of the Forum’s sixth session.



57. The fifth session of the Forum attracted a total of 13,795 participants from 150 countries, making it one of the largest United Nations meetings ever held in Brazil. The Forum attracted a rich and varied group of Habitat Agenda partners from a growing number of countries – rising steadily from 100 at the third session, to 145 at the fourth and 150 at the fifth.
58. Increased interest by national Governments, whose representatives comprised 12.7 per cent of the total number of participants at the fourth session and 16.6 per cent at the fifth, was a strong indication that Governments value the opportunity that the Forum, essentially a partners' platform, enables them to engage with non-governmental actors.
59. The Forum's growing stature was made evident not only by the large number of participants, but also by the high-level Government representatives who participated, including two heads of State, two vice-presidents, a prime minister, senior ministers and other political leaders. The President, senior ministers and other political leaders of the host country were also in attendance.
60. The session's key outcomes are discussed in document HSP/GC/23/INF/2. These outcomes were taken into consideration in deciding on the theme for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council and have been integrated in the continuing implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan 2008–2013.

## **K. Resolution 22/11: Human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

61. In response to Governing Council resolution 22/11 of 3 April 2009, and in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, a Habitat programme document (2010–2011) was developed for the Occupied Palestinian Territory and endorsed at the end of 2009 by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing together with the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development.
62. The Habitat programme document improved the focus of UN-Habitat work, complementing the support programmes of other United Nations entities and the broader international community. The document's work programme is aligned with the State-building agenda of the Palestinian Authority, as outlined in its Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (2008–2010).
63. An internationally recruited Chief Technical Adviser was appointed in April 2010 as part of a renewed effort to strengthen management capacity on the ground of the special human settlements programme for the Palestinian people. This development has also allowed the strengthening of UN-Habitat networking with Palestinian, Israeli and international stakeholders.
64. The implementation of a self-help reconstruction project for 100 housing units in the Gaza Strip, funded by Saudi Arabia's Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Campaign for the Relief of the Palestinian People, has been hampered by the absence of suitable building materials in the local market caused by the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip. UN-Habitat is leading the debate on what is known as the "building back better" approach and has made self-help reconstruction the basis for its reconstruction guidelines, adopted by all housing actors in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
65. In Hebron, the construction of 100 housing units for poor women and a technical and vocational training centre, funded by the Saudi Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People, is progressing well. UN-Habitat has resumed its support in housing policy, working closely with the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the World Bank and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's Department for International Development. Technical support is being provided to humanitarian actors with a view to increasing planning efficiency in the face of the housing crisis in the Israeli-controlled Area C and East Jerusalem. In addition, a key joint project is being prepared with UNDP on support for immediate and long-term strategic spatial planning for Palestinian cities, towns and villages.
66. Emergency repairs to housing units of the most vulnerable people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is taking place in East Jerusalem, targeting 45 units, with support from the Government of France.
67. The call in paragraph 3 of resolution 22/11 for support to UN-Habitat in the immediate mobilization of financial resources to support the operation of the special human settlements programme for the Palestinian people and its trust fund notwithstanding, only Bahrain has contributed (\$300,000).



## II. Other major outcomes and achievements

### A. Flagship reports

#### 1. Global Report on Human Settlements 2009

68. The 2009 edition of the Global Report on Human Settlements, “*Planning Sustainable Cities*”, assesses the effectiveness of current urban planning systems in both developing and developed countries. It recommends the following broad policy directions:

- (a) Governments should increasingly take on a more central development role in cities;
- (b) Reformed urban planning systems must fully and unequivocally take on current and emerging urban challenges, including climate change, rapid urbanization and poverty, shrinking cities, ageing populations, the multicultural composition of cities, informal settlements and citizen safety;
- (c) Countries should formulate national urban policies to respond to urban challenges and prospects more systematically;
- (d) Capacity to enforce urban planning regulations, which is seriously lacking in many developing countries, should be accorded extremely high priority and should be developed on the basis of realistic standards.

69. The report also suggests that, to integrate the natural and built environment agendas in cities, urban local authorities should implement a comprehensive set of green policies and strategies encompassing urban design, energy, infrastructure, transport, waste and slum prevention. It further suggests that strategic spatial plans linked to accessibility and public transport together with other types of infrastructure should be used to promote more compact forms of urban expansion.

#### 2. State of the World’s Cities 2010/2011

70. The *State of the World’s Cities 2010/2011: Cities for All — Bridging the Urban Divide* was launched at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, in March 2010. It highlights the unprecedented challenges associated with urbanization that confront the inhabitants of the world’s cities, including marginalization and various forms of social and political exclusion. The report highlights that, between 2000 and 2010, 227 million people in the developing world were lifted out of slum conditions and that, collectively, Governments exceeded by at least 2.2 times target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals on achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020. This achievement is, however, highly skewed towards the more advanced developing countries, while poorer countries have done less well. Over the same period, the number of slum-dwellers increased by 6 million every year. Based on these trends, it is expected that the world’s slum population will reach 889 million by 2020, if no serious concerted corrective action is taken.

71. The report identifies five policy steps for integrating the poor and marginalized into mainstream urban life. They are:

- (a) Assessing the past and measuring progress;
- (b) Establishing new, more effective governance institutions or strengthening existing ones as needed;
- (c) Building new linkages and alliances between various tiers of government;
- (d) Developing a sustained, comprehensive vision to promote inclusiveness;
- (e) Ensuring an equitable redistribution of opportunities.

### B. World Urban Campaign

72. A highlight of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum was the launch of the World Urban Campaign by the Executive Director, designed to elevate to a new level the drive by UN-Habitat and its partners for better, smarter, greener and more equitable cities. The Campaign is based on one of the fundamental objectives of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan: to forge effective partnerships between and with the public, private and civil society sectors to enable UN-Habitat to fulfil a truly catalytic role.

73. In the months preceding the launch, a steering committee of major partners and groups was established on the basis of shared ownership and common vision and mission. More than 50 partners representing global and thematic networks of cities, professionals, civil society and the private sector committed themselves to a free exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience in support of



sustainable urbanization. In addition, five United Nations entities (the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Universal Postal Union, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the International Telecommunication Union) are playing an active role by associating their respective campaigns with the World Urban Campaign.

74. In support of the Campaign, representatives of national and local governments, grass-roots organizations, professionals, trade unions, the media, the business community and women's groups signed a compact to work together to elevate sustainable urbanization issues in public policy and public and private investment. A key activity of the Campaign is its 100 Cities initiative, which builds on the concept of best practices, focusing on the sharing, exchange and transfer of lessons learned.

### **C. World Expo 2010**

75. The World Expo 2010, held in Shanghai from 1 May 2010 to 31 October 2010, proved to be an effective global advocacy mechanism for promoting the sustainable urbanization agenda. Its theme was "Better City, Better Life". UN-Habitat coordinated the participation of all United Nations agencies, programmes and funds in a 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> United Nations pavilion. The theme of the pavilion was "One Earth, one United Nations". The World Urban Campaign also organized an inaugural lecture series at the event.

76. The pavilion and the entire Expo were dedicated to ideas, experiences, innovations, tools, technologies, know-how and forms of expression that portray a positive vision of an urbanizing world, which is also one of the key objectives of the World Urban Campaign.

77. With 3 million visitors to the United Nations pavilion and some 70 million to the Expo, the event represented a significant opportunity to highlight the Habitat Agenda, especially the positive aspects of sustainable urban development.

---