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**UN HABITAT**

Governing Council  
of the United Nations  
Human Settlements  
Programme

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**Twentieth session**

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**Resolution 20/5: Access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements**

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>10</sup> and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to reduce by half, by the year 2015, the proportion of people unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, and to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020,

Recalling also the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, which calls for the promotion of access to safe drinking water for all and the facilitation of the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport through

9 [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.](#)

10 [General Assembly resolution 55/2.](#) transparent and accountable management of public services, and also partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations, for the delivery of those services,<sup>11</sup>

Taking into account the work of the twelfth session of United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, which recognized the key roles of central and local governments, the private and other non-governmental sectors and populations themselves in improving access to basic services for all,

Taking into account also the proposal to develop a set of codes and recommendations on partnerships and on the role of those various actors submitted during the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the working paper entitled “Access to basic services for all: towards an international declaration on partnerships”, produced by the United Nations

Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and based on informal consultations with various partners,  
Taking into account further the recommendation of the participants at the second session of the World Urban Forum, held in September 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, to include the item “Access to basic services for all” in the agenda of the twentieth session of the Governing Council,

Taking into account [General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004](#) and in particular its thirteenth preambular paragraph, which emphasizes the importance of access to basic services for the urban poor and in that regard taking note of its resolution 19/6 of 9 May 2003 on water and sanitation in cities,

Noting the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and United Nations Institute for Training and Research initiative on access to basic services for all, which includes principles and guidelines,

Considering the need expressed by all stakeholders to integrate basic services into national and local strategic plans to reduce poverty,

1. Reaffirms the importance of developing partnerships between central and local governments, the private sector, civil society and populations themselves with a view to increasing national and local financial resources and capacities directed towards improving access to basic services for all;
2. Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to compile best practices on policies, norms and institutional conditions related to the delivery of basic services within the context of sustainable human settlements, focusing on the respective roles and responsibilities of national Governments and local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners; [11 General Assembly resolution S-25/2, para. 59.](#)
3. Also requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to identify underlying principles on access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements which can be drawn from those best practices, and to present a report on best practices and principles for discussion by the Committee of Permanent representatives;
4. Further requests the Executive Director to invite relevant United Nations bodies and also Governments and interested stakeholders to comment on that draft report and on the way forward;
5. Requests the Executive Director to take those comments into account in revising and finalizing a report which also contains options on the way forward, including recommendations on guiding principles on the delivery of and access to basic services for all, drawn from that process, and to submit it to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session for its consideration;
6. Invites Governments to establish, in accordance with good governance practices, clear institutional and financial frameworks to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various actors and to promote partnerships for sustainable access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements, taking into account environmental and gender concerns;
7. Invites interested Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to provide support, including financial support, for that process.

8th meeting

8 April 2005