



UNITED
NATIONS

HSP

HSP/GC/20/13



Governing Council
of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

Distr. General
8 April 2005
Original: English

Twentieth session

Nairobi, 4 - 8 April 2005

Resolution 20/13: Housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living for persons who are vulnerable and disadvantaged

The Governing Council,

Recognizing adequate housing as an important component of the right to an adequate standard of living, as confirmed in [paragraph 61 of the Habitat Agenda](#),

Recognizing also the need to give special attention, in providing access to shelter, to persons with disabilities, single-parent families and especially single mothers, aged persons, orphans and abandoned children, refugees and internally displaced persons, minorities and indigenous people,

Bearing in mind the importance of increasing cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and relevant human rights organizations, specifically in the context of articles 17 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling paragraphs [12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 of the Habitat Agenda](#), which relate to the right of young people, displaced persons, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and aged persons to an adequate standard of living, adequate shelter and full and equal participation in political, social and economic life,

Recalling also [paragraph 40 of the Habitat Agenda](#), which emphasizes the promotion of shelter and basic services and facilities for education and health for

[34 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.](#)

homeless or displaced persons, indigenous people, women and children who are survivors of family violence, persons with disabilities and older persons,

Recalling further [paragraph 18 of the Habitat Agenda](#), which relates to open, accountable and effective leadership of local authorities and enabling structures which facilitate independent initiative,

Recalling [paragraphs 23, 24 and 26 of the Habitat Agenda](#),

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol,

Recalling further [Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/21](#) entitled “Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living” of 16 April 2004, and in particular its focus on the conditions of the poor, and also women and children, members of groups requiring special protection, such as persons with disabilities, indigenous people and persons belonging to minorities,

Recalling [General Assembly resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993](#), on standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,

Recognizing that poor women, single-parent families and especially single mothers, homeless children, persons with disabilities and persons belonging to other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are particularly severely affected by forced eviction, including, for women, the lack of full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through inheritance, and emphasizing the need to promote policy alternatives to forced eviction through campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance,

Recognizing also the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights joint Housing Rights Programme in the fields of advocacy, research and development, networking, monitoring and evaluation and capacity-building,

Recognizing further the work of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing of the Commission on Human Rights related to the housing rights of people belonging to other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups,

1. Requests the Executive Director, in developing and implementing policies of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to integrate the protection of persons belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups into all activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance;
2. Also requests the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments, to develop or, where they already exist, to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the impact of human settlement policies and programmes on the lives and work of disadvantaged persons in cities, including those in low-income areas and slums, and for enhancing vulnerable and disadvantaged persons' networks and other organizations active in the area;
3. Encourages Governments to adopt appropriate policies and to create mechanisms and allocate appropriate resources to tackle social problems resulting from lack of adequate shelter, such as gender-based violence, including family violence and discrimination, juvenile delinquency and criminality;
4. Urges Governments to support through their laws and policies access to housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living for vulnerable and disadvantaged people, and to take the necessary actions for the practical implementation of those rights;

5. Also urges Governments to seek alternatives to forced evictions, especially in respect of vulnerable and disadvantaged persons, where applicable;
6. Requests Governments and local authorities to strengthen gender mainstreaming in municipal planning and development and also the participation of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in human settlements development programmes, resource allocation and in delivery of basic services;
7. Calls upon Governments to strengthen mechanisms protecting the access of vulnerable and disadvantaged persons to adequate housing;
8. Invites Governments to provide financial support for the implementation of the joint Housing Rights Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
9. Requests the Executive Director to include a report on the implementation of the present resolution in her progress report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

8th meeting
8 April 2005