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Governing Council
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Resolution No 19/14: World Urban Forum, Barcelona

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its [resolution 18/5 of 16 February 2001](#) in which the Governing Council 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 "nonlegislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet",

Further recalling paragraph 7 of [General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001](#) in which the General Assembly encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda2 partners to participate, as appropriate, in the World Urban Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT),

Taking note of the close relationship between the objectives of the World Urban Forum and those of the Universal Forum of Cultures (Barcelona, 9 May to 26 September 2004), which is supported by the Economic and Social Council and organized by a consortium between the Government of Spain, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia and the Municipality of Barcelona,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the first session of the World Urban Forum,²⁸ Having heard the explanations on the Universal Forum of Cultures, Barcelona, 2004, in whose framework the second session of the World Urban Forum will be held,

1. Welcomes the wide participation at the first session of the World Urban Forum by Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners and the successful outcome of the session including its recommendations on sustainable urbanization which were submitted to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 26 August to 4 September 2002;

2. Takes note of the objectives and working arrangements for future sessions of the World Urban Forum as contained in annex IV of the report of its first session;
3. Confirms that the World Urban Forum should serve as a think tank of experts who advise the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on issues concerning international cooperation in the area of shelter and sustainable urbanization;
4. Reiterates that, in addition to Governments, attendance at sessions of the World Urban Forum should be as inclusive as possible so as to ensure that local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners participate in the identification of new issues, the sharing of lessons learned, best practices and good policies with a view to facilitating the optimum exchange of experiences and the advancement of collective knowledge among Governments, cities and their development partners in the field of shelter and sustainable urbanization;
5. Welcomes, with appreciation, the invitation by the Government of Spain, the Municipality of Barcelona and the Universal Forum of the Cultures Barcelona 2004, for the World Urban Forum to hold its second session in the city of Barcelona from 13 to 17 September 2004;
6. Requests the Executive Director to take into account the deliberations and decisions of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council in her preparation of the provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the World Urban Forum;
7. Further requests the Executive Director to provide adequate organizational and substantive support to the preparations for and convening of the second session of the World Urban Forum in Barcelona;
8. Urges all Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to attend and participate actively in the deliberations of the second session of the World Urban Forum;
9. Invites Governments in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund which will be utilized by the Executive Director to support the travel and participation of representatives of the least developed countries and of Habitat Agenda partners in the second session of the World Urban Forum;
10. Also welcomes, with appreciation, the invitation by the Prime Minister of Canada for the World Urban Forum to hold its third session in Vancouver in the year 2006;
11. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twentieth session on the outcome of the second session of the World Urban Forum;
12. Considers the Universal Forum of Cultures, Barcelona 2004, an initiative of great interest for UN-HABITAT and gives its full support to it.

8th meeting
9 May 2003