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Governing Council
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Resolution No. 18/3: Global campaigns for secure tenure and urban governance

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the goals and principles, commitments and recommendations of the [Habitat Agenda](#) on “Adequate shelter for all” and “Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world”,

Also recalling [General Assembly resolution 54/209 of 22 December 1999](#) on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which endorses “two global campaigns, concerning secure tenure and urban governance, as strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda”, and [resolution 17/1 of 14 May 1999](#) of the Commission on Human Settlements on the same topic,

Noting with appreciation the initial activities undertaken by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the conceptualization and implementation of the campaigns, including the launches of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the activities and partnerships under way for the Global Campaign for Urban Governance and, in this connection, the financial support already received from several member States,

Also noting with appreciation the active partnerships established with Habitat Agenda partners around the two campaigns, and recognizing the activities initiated within the existing and emerging working relationships,

Noting with concern the inadequate provision of affordable land in urban areas, the expansion of informal settlements, the increase of urban poverty and the continuing exclusion of the urban poor, in particular women-headed households,

Acknowledging the importance of secure tenure and urban governance in achieving adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, and recognizing the need to continue and expand the broad-based, inclusive and global process involving governments at all levels, including local authorities, and relevant non-governmental organizations, including those representing the inadequately housed and homeless, and all other Habitat Agenda partners in implementing campaign activities at all levels,

Taking fully into consideration constitutional frameworks, national laws and different stages of economic and social development of each country,

Taking also into consideration the desirability for some countries to adapt or promulgate legislation according to the requirements of human settlements,

Noting that the term “norm” refers to generally accepted standards, guidelines or principles and should not be understood to imply that they are intended to be implemented through binding legal instruments,

I. Security of tenure

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure,⁵ and emphasizes the need for countries to consider appropriate follow-up action;
2. Takes note of the need for technical and legal expertise within the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to carry out the activities of the Campaign for Secure Tenure;
3. Calls upon Governments to develop, within their legal frameworks, actions at the national and local levels in order to enable people to have equal access to land and to promote security of residential tenure with special consideration of women and those living in poverty;
4. Welcomes the initiation of joint activities between the Centre and other relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system, and, in this context, and in line with all the passages relating to security of tenure in chapters III and IV of the Habitat Agenda, requests the Executive Director as part of the Campaign for Secure Tenure to develop appropriate advisory guidelines taking into account national legislation, conditions and priorities of different countries;

II. Urban governance

Takes note of the initiative to illustrate and promote Inclusive Cities – formerly designated as Illustrative Cities – as a means of advocacy and capacity-building and calls upon Governments to support this initiative in their efforts to advance the practical application of the non-binding norms of both campaigns.

III. The global campaigns

1. Requests the Executive Director to establish legal advisory capacity within the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to provide legal assistance with respect to human settlements and housing legislation, in particular to the global campaigns for secure tenure and urban governance;
2. Calls upon the Executive Director to ensure continued expansion of the global campaigns through normative dialogue, awareness raising, capacity-building and technical cooperation;
3. Calls upon all Governments, in cooperation with civil-society partners, and within the framework of their legislation, to initiate and encourage dialogue and consideration of norms of secure tenure and urban governance at all levels and to share their experiences with the Centre for further appropriate action;
4. Invites all relevant stakeholders and partners of the Centre in the implementation of the global campaigns for secure tenure and urban governance to mobilize at the highest possible level their

support and contributions and to formalize partnerships with the Centre to realize the goals of the campaigns;

5. Calls upon all Governments and external support agencies in a position to do so to provide financial and technical support to the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign for Urban Governance, to enable developing, and especially least developed, countries and their national and local Habitat partners to implement programmes relevant to the two campaigns;

6. Encourages the Executive Director to initiate all forms of partnership and to develop actions with special concern to capacity-building and poverty alleviation towards the implementation of the global campaigns;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting
16 February 2001