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Governing Council
of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

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Resolution No. 18/4: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 and cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling [General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999](#) entitled “Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements”, Considering [General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985](#) on cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the importance of the implementation of [General Assembly resolution 53/242](#), and of cooperation between the Centre and the Programme for the effective implementation of Agenda 216 and the [Habitat Agenda](#),³ especially its chapter IV, sections C, D, and E, Recalling its [resolutions 15/8 of 1 May 1995 and 16/20 of 7 May 1997](#) on cooperation between the Centre and the Programme in the Sustainable Cities Programme, as well as its [resolution 17/6 of 14 May 1999](#) on the views of the Commission on Human Settlements on the report of the Secretary General on environment and human settlements,

Considering the importance of strengthening the United Nations in the field of human settlements and of ensuring the full participation of the Centre in the work of the Environmental Management Group, the need for the involvement of major groups in the Centre's work, and the importance of information and monitoring and of strengthening capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular in developing countries, and developing human settlements indicators,

Taking note of the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the Centre and the Programme on cooperation between the Centre and the Programme,⁷

Noting the importance of cooperation under the four subject areas reported in the joint progress report, namely: assessment of environmental conditions in human settlements; environmental aspects of policies, planning and management of human settlements - both rural and urban; environmentally sound and appropriate human settlements technology; and research, training and the dissemination of information on environmentally sound human settlements planning and management - especially the achievements of the joint Sustainable Cities Programme, the joint

Urban Environment Forum, the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Task Force on the Balkans, and the joint Managing Water for African Cities Programme, 6 [Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I](#), Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales

Noting with concern that the future of the long-term cooperation in the joint Sustainable Cities Programme is unclear since neither the Centre nor the Programme has been able to commit the necessary resources for their respective contributions for 2001 and onwards, Emphasizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of the Centre in its Nairobi location and of ensuring the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue working to fully implement [General Assembly resolution 53/242](#) which called for the strengthening of the United Nations in the field of environment and human settlements through the efforts of the Centre, by: stepping up cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities; preparing for the establishment of the Environmental Management Group; involving major groups and civil society in the Centre's work; strengthening its information and monitoring capacities; providing technical assistance and building capacities in developing countries; and continuing to develop indicators in the area of environment and human settlements;
2. Further requests the Executive Director to continue to expand cooperation between the Centre and the Programme;
3. Also requests the Executive Director to continue strengthening the core activities of the Centre in order to develop it into a centre of excellence in human settlements;
4. Also requests the Executive Director to expand on the joint work in the Managing Water for African Cities Programme and to establish a mechanism for coordinated decision-making and oversight;
5. Requests the Executive Director to continue collaboration in the joint assessment of human settlements vulnerability to natural and human-made disasters and in the joint formulation and implementation of vulnerability reduction strategies;
6. Urges the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the Centre for the biennium 2002-2003 in accordance with current budgetary practices;
7. Encourages all Governments to actively support the implementation of [General Assembly resolution 53/242](#) and the cooperation between the Centre and the Programme technically and financially;
8. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its nineteenth session on progress in implementing the present resolution.

8th meeting
16 February 2001