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Governing Council
of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

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Resolution No. 18/6: Work programme and budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the [Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements](#),² the [Habitat Agenda](#) and [General Assembly resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996](#), by which, inter alia, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was designated as focal point, within the United Nations system, for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Noting, with satisfaction, the progress made so far in implementing the new strategic vision for a revitalized Centre,⁹ in accordance with its [resolution 17/7 of 14 May 1999](#), on revitalization of the Habitat Centre,

Recognizing the need for the Centre's work programme to continue focusing on well-defined strategic issues and objectives, as adopted by the Commission at its seventeenth session, in order to contribute more effectively to the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda,

Noting, with appreciation, the consultation with member Governments by the Centre during the preparation of the 2002-2005 medium-term plan and its use as a framework for the preparation of the proposed work programme for the biennium 2002-2003,

Welcoming the consultation with member Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, during the elaboration of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001 and the preparation of the draft work programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003,

Also welcoming the continuing efforts of the Centre to improve its financial and administrative management, to present a harmonized budget in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions¹⁰ and to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors in their report for the biennium ended 1999,¹¹

Noting that the contributions to the Centre in 1999 and 2000, especially non-earmarked contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, have proven

insufficient to fulfil the mandate of the Centre, Expressing concern at the existing imbalance between earmarked and non-earmarked contributions and at the fact that only thirty-four and twenty-six Governments in 1999 and 2000, respectively, contributed non-earmarked funds to the Foundation, Welcoming the significant increase in general-purpose contributions and pledges announced during the eighteenth session of the Commission,

1. Approves the draft work programme for the biennium 2002-2003;
2. Confirms that the work programme for 2002-2003 is in line with the new strategic vision of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and reflects the structure and orientation of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005;
3. Calls upon the Executive Director to report regularly to Governments, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on progress made in the implementation of the 2002-2003 work programme;
4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to ensure timely consultation with Governments, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, during the preparation of future biennial budgets and programmes of work, as well as of medium-term plans;
5. Endorses the formats of the budget and programme of work presented for the biennium 2002-2003,¹² including the harmonized budget and the programme of work, for use in the preparation of future biennial budgets and programmes of work or refinements thereof;
6. Requests the Executive Director to take into account the outcome of the United Nations General Assembly special session on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda when preparing the draft budget and work programme for the biennium 2004-2005;
7. Notes with appreciation the results achieved so far in the improvement of the administrative and financial management of the Centre and encourages the Executive Director to continue to pursue these efforts as a matter of urgency, keeping in mind the recommendations of the Board of Auditors as contained in paragraph 11 of its report, those of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as contained in its report and those contained in the report of the Bureau of the Commission at its seventeenth session on the revitalization of the Centre;¹³
8. Requests the Executive Director to strategically plan and align all activities of the Centre according to its central objectives, its refocused mandate as adopted by the Commission at its seventeenth session, as well as its resources, and to ensure that all activities funded from both earmarked and non-earmarked sources contribute to achieving the programme of work and the core goals of the Centre;
9. Recommends that the Executive Director, in view of the observation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions regarding the accountability of United Nations Office at Nairobi for the cost and quality of services provided to the Centre,¹⁴ propose to the Division of Administrative Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi that a service-level agreement be concluded between the Centre and the Office;
10. Urges Governments to treat the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as the central funding vehicle for their voluntary contributions to the Centre, and calls upon all Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their financial support to it, and, to the

maximum extent possible, to provide their support as non-earmarked contributions in order to reduce the Centre's over-dependence on earmarked funding;

11. Urges the Executive Director to strengthen the resource mobilization capacity of the Centre and to consider the development of a medium-term fund-raising strategy, in an effort to increase and broaden the resource base and to put the Centre on a stable, adequate and predictable financial basis;

12. Invites all Governments to pledge and make their contributions at the earliest possible date in order to enable the Centre to plan its staffing table and activities more effectively;

13. Recommends that the Executive Director endeavour to ensure that the bulk of additional funding received by the Centre during the biennium is allocated to the implementation of programme activities, rather than to administrative costs;

14. Approves a budget of \$23,998,900 for the biennium 2002-2003;

15. Endorses, in principle, the work programme, organizational and budget refinements detailed by the Executive Director in document [HS/C/18/9/Add.3](#), tables I and II, in document [HS/C/18/8/Add.1](#) and in annex II of document HS/C/18/2/Add.4, respectively, and authorizes her, subject to the availability of additional resources, to make commitments above the level of \$23,998,900 and up to \$31,693,900, accordingly;

16. Recommends that such commitments be made on a step-by-step basis, with prudence, in the area of organizational units and post levels, consolidating the revitalization so far achieved

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8th meeting
16 February 2001