



UNITED
NATIONS

HSP

HSP/GC/17/8



Governing Council
of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

Distr. General
14th May 1999
Original: English

Seventeenth session

Nairobi, 5th-14th May 1999.

Resolution No.17/8: The State of the World's Cities

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the commitment by Member States to implement the [Habitat Agenda](#) through local, national, subregional and regional plans of action and/or other policies and programmes drafted and executed in cooperation with interested parties at all levels,

Recalling also the recommendations from the "City Summit" in Istanbul that all partners of the Habitat Agenda, including local authorities, the private sector and communities, should regularly monitor and evaluate their own performances in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through comparable human settlements and shelter indicators and documented best practices,

Recalling further that such indicators and information on best practices, which should be available and accessible to all, will be provided to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), taking into account the need for reporting procedures to reflect diversity in regional, national, subnational and local characteristics and priorities,

Recognizing that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is responsible for establishing an appropriate global process for analysing and monitoring major trends in urbanization and the impact of policies on urban and rural settlements, for tracking progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and for continuing its publications programme, including, inter alia, publication of the Global Report on Human Settlements,

Appreciating that, in pursuance of Commission resolutions, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has established a Global Urban Observatory that will permit comparative international evaluation and implementation of a global programme for the collection, analysis and dissemination of universal key urban indicators and best practices, Supporting the strategy of the Global Urban Observatory of networking with urban observatories at all levels to facilitate information dissemination and policymaking functions,

Convinced of the need to take full advantage of modern information and communications technology for building capacity to monitor and evaluate urban development in a globalizing world,

1. Calls upon the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue, in cooperation with capacity-building partners, the implementation of an Internet-based urban information and knowledge system to strengthen the ability of Governments, local authorities and key partners to gain access to and make use of information to monitor and assess urban conditions and trends and to formulate effective urban policies;
2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to synthesize information and knowledge from this global urban information and knowledge system in a summary report entitled The State of the World's Cities prior to each of the Commission's biennial sessions and to produce, in cooperation with key stakeholders, a comprehensive report on the state of the world's cities, accompanied by appropriate policy recommendations, for review by the General Assembly in the year 2001 of progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda;
3. Also requests the Executive Director to facilitate a global consultative process, in coordination with appropriate United Nations agencies, representatives of key stakeholders in sustainable urban development and technical experts, in order to establish universal urban information standards and protocols and to produce an urban classification system, incorporating key words and concepts from the Habitat Agenda and from other recent United Nations global plans and platforms of action;
4. Invites the Executive Director, in view of the planned special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to consider the consolidation of the report The State of the World's Cities: 2001 with the third edition of the Global Report on Human Settlements;
5. Also invites the Executive Director, through appropriate consultative processes:
 - (a) To improve the list of universal urban indicators by adding appropriate key indicators on poverty, environment, gender equality and governance and, where necessary, minimum sets of region-specific indicators;* Adopted by 25 votes to 1, with 23 abstentions.
 - (b) To test and disseminate tools and methods for the local selection and analysis of indicators and other relevant information;
 - (c) To develop a set of comparable urban indices;
6. Further invites the Executive Director to expand the identification, analysis and dissemination of best practices to include, specifically, urban policies, plans of action and legislation and environmental best practices (the latter in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and its partner groups);
7. Urges Governments to support, as appropriate, regional, national and local urban observatories, networks and capacity-building institutions.

14 May 1999
9th meeting