

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Nairobi, 11–15 April 2011
Agenda item 5

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme, including coordination matters**

Draft resolution on human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory¹

Submission by the drafting group

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 19/18 of 9 May 2003, which endorsed the establishment of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and its resolution 22/11, which called upon member States to provide financial support to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and its Trust Fund;

Recognizing that shelter and human settlements remain key elements in improving the living conditions of Palestinians for building their State, and in reaching a sustainable peace in the Middle East;

Appreciating and recognizing the important efforts of the Palestinian Authority in building the Palestinian institutions in order to improve the human settlements conditions of the Palestinian people while working towards sustainable urbanisation;

Noting the special housing needs of the Palestinian people and the unsustainable urbanisation trends leading to further deterioration in the Palestinian human settlements conditions, re-enforced by the existing situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

Conscious of the housing and human settlement needs of the Palestinian people especially in areas where there are acute humanitarian and development needs;

Expressing the hope that the Palestinians and the Israelis will continue to support and facilitate the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People; and in particular supporting the ongoing discussions toward a smooth flow of building materials into the Gaza Strip from Israel and the West Bank in view of alleviating the housing crisis in Gaza and facilitating economic recovery;

Noting with appreciation the renewed efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), as evident in the report of the Executive Director, to mobilise its core

¹ The present resolution has been issued without formal editing.

technical expertise on planning, land and housing issues as outlined in the Habitat programme document for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2010 – 2011) and the consequent improved focus of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People in line with the Palestinian priorities and complementary to the efforts of other UN and international organisations and member States;

Expressing appreciation to Governments and others for their positive response to the call for financial support included in resolution 22/11;

1. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) to further focus its operations on planning, land and housing issues in view of improving the housing and human settlement conditions of Palestinians, addressing the urbanisation challenges, supporting the building of a Palestinian State, humanitarian action and peace-building, in the areas where there are acute humanitarian and development needs, identified through technical assessments by UN-HABITAT in coordination with all concerned parties;

2. Encourages the Palestinian Authority, with support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and as part of its State-building effort, to continue its efforts and further enhance its legal and institutional framework, policies and practices related to planning, land and housing as to prepare the ground for sustainable urbanisation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to set up and chair an advisory board to the Special Human Settlement Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, constituted of representatives to the UN of contributing member states, in order to provide policy guidance to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, taking into account the evolving context, to support fundraising based on identified gaps, to review progress and reporting to the Governing Council and prepare the necessary Governing Council resolutions;

4. *Calls upon* member States and others in a position to do so to financially support the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and its Technical Cooperation Trust Fund as to ensure availability of UN-HABITAT's core expertise on planning, land and housing and the implementation of its specific programmes as outlined in the Habitat programme document for the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress with regard to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, including progress in the mobilisation of financial resources for the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.
