

# Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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**Twenty-third session**  
Nairobi, 11–15 April 2011  
Agenda item 9  
**Other matters**

## **Draft resolution on sustainable urban development through access to quality urban public spaces**

### **Submission by the drafting group**

*The Governing Council,*

*Taking note* of the World Charter on the Right to the City<sup>1</sup> and its resolve that cities should constitute an environment of full realization of all human rights and fundamental liberties assuring the dignity and collective well-being of all people, in conditions of equality and justice, and that all persons have the right to find in the city the necessary conditions for their political, economic, cultural, social and ecological realization, while assuming the duty of solidarity,

*Taking into consideration* the importance of public spaces that are green, safe and socially inclusive,

*Noting* the outcomes of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and in particular the electronic debate on taking forward the dialogue on the right to the city and bridging the urban divide,

*Noting also* that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme within the medium-term strategic and institutional plan process highlights the importance of urban planning in the creation of sustainable cities,

*Taking note* of the most recent *State of the World's Cities* report on the right to the city,

*Taking note also* of the work of numerous civil society movements worldwide engaged in place-making and engaging the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in advancing the promotion of place-making, public spaces and the enhancement of the quality of urban life,

*Mindful* of its other resolutions adopted at its twenty-third session on issues pertaining to safer cities, gender and young people,

*Taking note* of the priorities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on sustainable urban development policies with an emphasis on beginning with the street as a point of

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1 Available at <http://www.dpi.org/lang-en/events/details.php?page=124>.

communication, commerce, contact and improved access to the city, including access to all modes of transport and highlighting that city planning for the effective use of streets requires participatory planning, taking into account citizens' needs in all their diversity,

1. *Invites* Governments to formulate and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote socially just and environmentally balanced uses of urban public space in conditions of urban security and gender equity that foster urban resilience;
2. *Invites* Governments and local authorities to facilitate the use of public spaces of cities such as streets, parks and markets to foster social, cultural, economic and environmental convergences so that all citizens have access to public spaces in a socially just landscape and within resilient environmental conditions;
3. *Invites* national Governments and development partners and encourages local authorities to consider:
  - (a) Implementing urban environmental planning, regulation and management that promotes equilibrium between urban development and protection of natural, historic, architectural, cultural and artistic heritage, that impedes segregation and territorial exclusion, that prioritizes social production of public space and that encourages the social and creative economic function of cities and property: for that purpose, cities should adopt measures that foster integration and equity with quality urban public spaces that respect environmentally friendly processes;
  - (b) Integrating the theme of urban safety for all citizens, especially for women, girls and other vulnerable groups, as an attribute of the public space, taking into account gender and age considerations in the laws regulating the use of public space;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director through the medium-term strategic and institutional plan to advance the agenda on place-making and public spaces in a specific way that will consolidate local and international approaches to creating inclusive cities, enhance the knowledge of partners of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and local authorities of place-making, public spaces and the quality of urban life and facilitate and implement exchange, cooperation and research between partners working in this field;
5. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with Habitat Agenda partners, to develop a policy approach on the role that place-making can play in meeting the challenges of our rapidly urbanizing world, to disseminate that policy and its results widely and to develop a plan for ensuring its application internationally;
6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to assist in coordinating partners of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in disseminating knowledge to existing sustainable urban development processes at all governmental levels;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council on operating paragraphs calling for action by the Executive Director, at its twenty-fourth session, on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.