

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

HSP/GC/23/CRP.5/Rev.1
14 April 2011

Original: English

Twenty-third session
Nairobi, 11–15 April 2011
Agenda item 5

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

Draft resolution on the World Urban Forum

Submission by the drafting group

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution 18/5 of 16 February 2001, by which it requested the Executive Director to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum, with a view to strengthening the coordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, and in particular paragraph 3 of section B, in which the General Assembly decided that the Forum would be a non-legislative technical forum in which experts could exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme did not meet, and paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001, in which the General Assembly encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to participate, as appropriate, in the World Urban Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, in addition to subsequent calls by the General Assembly for all Governments to participate actively in the sessions of the World Urban Forum,¹

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976 on the pattern of conferences, in which the General Assembly decided that the United Nations bodies might hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory had agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved,

Recalling the invitation by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/226 of 23 December 2003 to donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, and also its resolution 62/198 of 19 December 2007, by which it called upon donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including women and young people, in the Forum,

1 General Assembly resolutions 60/203 of 22 December 2005 and 62/198 of 19 December 2007.

Recalling also its resolutions 20/10 of 8 April 2005 and 22/10 of 3 April 2009,

Reiterating the objectives of the World Urban Forum set out in annex IV to the report of the first session of the World Urban Forum, held in Nairobi from 29 April to 3 May 2002,

Expressing appreciation for the report of the Executive Director on the fifth session of the World Urban Forum,²

Welcoming the contributions by the Government of Brazil, the State of Rio de Janeiro and the municipality of Rio de Janeiro to hosting the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, in Rio de Janeiro from 22 to 26 March 2010,

Welcoming also the financial contributions by the Governments of France, Norway and Spain and by the European Commission intended to support the participation of representatives from the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of States, including developing countries, and, in particular, the least developed countries, including women and young people, in the Forum,

Expressing appreciation for the successful organization of the fifth session of the Forum, and the growing interest of the global community in the Forum, as demonstrated by five successive successful sessions and the highest-ever participation of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners from all regions, which has made the Forum the foremost global arena for interaction between policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements;

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to implement the main findings resulting from the lessons learned from the review of the first four sessions of the Forum³ and the evaluation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the fifth session in which there is concurrence without prejudice to any other emerging findings, and further to improve and define a timely planning process based on a results-based framework;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to assess the impact and outcome of each Forum session using a results-based approach and to incorporate that more distinctly into the programme of work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

3. *Encourages* a review of annex IV to the report of the first session of the World Urban Forum, entitled “Objectives of and arrangements for the World Urban Forum”, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with a view to developing clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Group, fine-tuned general objectives of and arrangements for the Forum sessions and identification of future hosts based on experience gathered from the past five Forum sessions;

4. *Emphasizes*, in line with the progress made in the current review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the need to define the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the Forum to promote a more transparent, effective and timely planning process and to clarify and better define the roles and responsibilities of the host country and the Committee in advising and supporting the Executive Director in the organization of the Forum sessions;

5. *Invites* member States in a position to do so to support the Forum and requests the Executive Director to strengthen coordination as appropriate, including by enhancing the interdivisional support mechanism of the Forum, as expeditiously as possible;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

2 HSP/GC/23/2/Add.2.

3 HSP/GC/23/INF/3.