

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Nairobi, 11–15 April 2011
Agenda item 9
Other matters

Draft resolution on third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development

Submission by the drafting group

The Governing Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976,¹ which formed the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda² and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements³ as the main outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996 (Habitat II), which set forth the twin goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and the global plan of action to attain those goals set out in the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling further the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,⁴ adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session, in 2001, by which the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-sixth session on options for reviewing and strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and Habitat II,

Expressing appreciation that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010, encouraged the Secretary-General to consider, in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), the possibility of integrating the two themes of “housing finance systems” and “sustainable urbanization”, previously suggested as topics for separate high-level events of the Assembly, either into the preparatory process for Habitat III or into a combined theme for a single high-level event,

1 *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

2 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

3 *Ibid.*, annex I.

4 General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

Reiterating its recommendation made at its twenty-second session that the General Assembly consider the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the question of convening a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session,

Bearing in mind the role of cities as engines of national economic and social development and the contribution of housing to employment generation and urban poverty reduction,

Acknowledging that cities have a critical role to play in promoting energy efficiency and sustainable development through more appropriate urban planning, management and building practices, in addition to the investments required, if necessary, to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions,

Recognizing the need to minimize the negative impacts of climate change on human settlements by reducing the vulnerability of poor populations, increasing the adaptive capacities of cities, strengthening governance structures and engaging the private sector and civil society in finding practical solutions to problems in the areas of land-use planning, public transport, building design, and air and water quality,

Recognizing also that, while substantial progress has been achieved in human settlements at the national, regional and international levels over the past decade, there is a need for an in-depth review and assessment of global progress made towards the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda and of other international goals relevant to human settlements,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development⁵ and invites the Secretary-General to include its ideas and proposals in his own report to be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;
2. *Also takes note* of the observations made in the Executive Director's report, in particular the proposed aims of a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), the purposes of which would include to review past policies, achievements and obstacles; to put in place a new urban development agenda capable of responding to the new urban challenges and opportunities such as climate change and urban safety and security, in addition to advancing a new role for cities and local authorities; and to find ways of strengthening the institutional framework for land governance, housing and sustainable urban development;
3. *Invites* the General Assembly to deliberate further at its sixty-sixth session on the question of convening, in 2016, a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

5 HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4.