

# Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

HSP/GC/23/CRP.11

13 April 2011

Original: English

## Twenty-third session

Nairobi, 11–15 April 2011

Agenda item 9

## Other matters

### **Draft resolution on future activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in urban economy and financial mechanisms for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor**

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

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, by which the General Assembly, among other things, encouraged the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective, as set out in General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974,

*Recalling also* its resolution 19/11 of 9 May 2003, by which it requested the Executive Director to continue to work with the World Bank Group, regional development banks, other development banks, the private sector and other relevant partners to field-test approaches through pilot projects, and its resolution 20/18 of 8 April 2005, by which it called upon the Executive Director to strengthen the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation's Slum Upgrading Facility,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 61/206 of 18 December 2006, by which the General Assembly took note of the special annex for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation<sup>1</sup> appended by the Secretary-General to the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations<sup>2</sup> and requested the Governing Council to address, in a comprehensive manner, any issues relating to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation at its twenty-first session, bearing in mind the need to mobilize resources for the Foundation effectively,

*Recalling* its resolution 21/10 of 20 April 2007, by which it requested the Executive Director to continue the work of strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to accelerate the provision of finance for the mobilization of seed capital, domestic and other financial resources for shelter and related infrastructure with due priority to the needs of low-income households,

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1 ST/SGB/2006/8.

2 ST/SGB/2003/7.

*Taking note* of rule 304.3.2 (c) of the special annex for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation appended by the Secretary-General to the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations,

*Recognizing* its responsibility to issue policy directives with a view to ensuring that the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation are used with maximum efficiency and effectiveness in pursuance of the Foundation's objectives,

*Conscious* of paragraph 56 (m) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>3</sup> which calls upon States Members of the United Nations to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading,

*Taking note* of the report by the Executive Director on the implementation of its resolution 21/10 on an evaluation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme,<sup>4</sup>

*Welcoming* the external evaluation of the experimental financial mechanisms for pro-poor housing and infrastructure implemented from 2007 to 2011,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in building on the lessons learned from the experimental reimbursable seeding operations and slum upgrading facility programmes, to shift the focus of the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of human settlements financing towards strengthening its normative approaches to urban economy and the promotion of finance for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor, while taking into account geographical and regional balance;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in building on the recommendations of the above-mentioned report on an evaluation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme, to explore as expeditiously as possible and to select, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a partnership model with development finance institutions for future lending, guarantee and financial advisory services in the urban upgrading and housing finance sectors;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in building on the lessons learned from and the recommendations of the external evaluation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme, to transfer either the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme portfolio or the management of that portfolio, as the Executive Director may determine to be the most financially feasible, and the technical loan guarantee oversight responsibilities of the slum upgrading facility programme to an appropriate external development finance partner;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in its efforts to maximize its comparative advantage around normative work, partnership and regional presence and to strengthen the Programme's efforts to collaborate effectively with institutions dedicated to and primarily focused on development finance in the design and execution of finance projects and programmes that focus on innovative and pro-poor financing instruments;

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

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3 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

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