

# Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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**Twenty-third session**  
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Agenda item 9  
**Other matters**

## **Draft resolution on country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

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

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 20/15 of 8 April 2005, by which it reaffirmed that the complementarity and synergy between the operational and normative functions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme constituted a major asset and comparative advantage and acknowledged the role of the regional offices and Habitat Programme Managers,

*Recalling also* its resolution 22/9 of 3 April 2009, by which it requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen its regional presence with a view to enhancing South-South cooperation in the implementation of its work programme,

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence, by which the General Assembly emphasized the principle of national ownership and leadership, took note of the progress made by “delivering as one” countries and reiterated the objective of simplification and harmonization of business practices, rules and procedures to enhance the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the United Nations development system,

*Mindful* of the importance of the “delivering as one process” and the achievements made in that regard;

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), by which the General Assembly noted the efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda in their respective development frameworks,

*Mindful* of the peer review report on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, in which it was recommended that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme should, among other things, consider a change in the organizational structure to align it better with the focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, allocate adequate funds to regional offices from core resources to improve coordination at the global, regional and country levels, and document systematically country-level achievements,

*Welcoming* the 2011 edition of the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on country activities, which reflects the expansion of the Programme’s portfolio to the benefit of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

1. *Acknowledges* the importance of country activities as part of the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and as a central component of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the Programme's enhanced normative and operational framework;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to mobilize and devote adequate core resources to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of country activities aligned with the focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and to contribute to post-disaster and post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in affected countries;
3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen interdivisional coordination and collaboration in the definition and development of country activities;
4. *Supports* the participation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, in addition to its contribution to the work of United Nations country teams through its regional offices and Habitat Programme Managers;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with other relevant United Nations programmes and activities at the country level;
6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to improve the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned from country activities and to ensure that those lessons feed into the global normative work of the Programme with the goal of strengthening its accountability and effectiveness;
7. *Further requests* the Executive Director to update regularly the country programme documents in collaboration with the relevant Governments and United Nations country teams and to support the organization of national urban forums as instruments of policy debates and awareness-raising and as platforms for the preparation of sessions of the World Urban Forum, and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives about these updates;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop subregional, regional and interregional programmes as a mechanism to promote South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, through exchanges of experts, best practices and policy options;
9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to give due consideration in the forthcoming organizational review to the need for increased decentralization and delegation of authority to enhance the efficiency and impact of country activities, including with regard to the regional and outposted offices, at various levels;
10. *Invites* all Governments in a position to do so to contribute financially to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress made in promoting country activities, including the implementation of the present resolution, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.