

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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**Work programme of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations
Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the
biennium 2012–2013**

Draft resolution on natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation as a contribution to sustainable urban development

Submission by the drafting group

The Governing Council,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, the massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world,

Recognizing the increasing challenges facing the disaster response and preparedness capacity of States Members of the United Nations and the United Nations system,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations and recognizing the importance in natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation of acting within relevant national and international frameworks, in particular United Nations development assistance frameworks, United Nations country teams, and in accordance with the principle of one United Nations,

Recalling also the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, which established five priorities for action: to ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; to support scientific research on all aspects of disaster risk reduction and to use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; to reduce underlying risk factors; and to strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels,

Recalling further General Assembly Resolution 65/157 of 20 December 2010, on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, which called upon the members of the United Nations system to integrate the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action into their strategies and programmes,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 65/264 of 28 January 2011, which, among other things, calls for the updating of early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, calls for additional international cooperation efforts to broaden the use of national, local, regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response and urges both Member States and the United Nations System to give special attention to the needs of the residents of areas prone to natural disasters,

Recalling also Governing Council resolutions 19/7 and 19/9 relating to United Nations Human Settlements Programme activities in post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction and its work, in close coordination with appropriate multilateral and bilateral agencies, on human settlements needs in the reconstruction of countries and territories affected by armed conflicts or other human-caused or natural disasters,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004, which requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, within its mandate, to continue to support the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development and encouraged the Programme to continue to work closely with the members of the United Nations system,

Recalling its resolution 20/17 and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Strategic Policy on Human Settlements and Crisis,

Recalling also its resolution 22/8 in which it emphasized the need to promote environmental sustainability in the delivery of basic services for all, including sustainable urban planning, risk reduction, early warning systems and appropriate responses to natural disasters,

Recognizing regional declarations, initiatives and commitments, including the Solo Declaration adopted at the Third Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, in which Asian and Pacific ministers responsible for housing and urban development underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation between member countries in developing disaster prevention mechanism and in emergency assistance and reconstruction and recovery of areas damaged by disasters and extreme-climate-change-related events,

Noting with appreciation the partnerships established by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with various disaster management and humanitarian institutions for the development and implementation of vulnerability reduction and sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation activities, in particular the memorandum of understanding concluded between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the cooperation in implementing the campaign to make cities resilient,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support strongly, within its mandate, the implementation of regional, subregional, national and local urban risk reduction and early warning programmes, within the established parameters, including the production of guidelines and training programmes and the collection and dissemination of best practices;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen programming, in line with General Assembly Resolution 65/157 of 20 December 2010, the pertinent elements of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis for urban disaster risk reduction, vulnerability reduction and limiting the after-effects of disasters;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to ensure that all necessary financial and administrative mechanisms, including dedicated extra-budgetary resources, are in place to enable, within the work programme and budget, upon request by member States, rapid deployment of urban experts within the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme to address imminent urban natural disaster risk and immediate needs, following natural disasters, within United Nations country teams and following the one United Nations principle;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to foster a better understanding and knowledge of the causes of urban disasters and to build and strengthen the coping capacities of member States through, among other things, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant early warning information, data and systems and the strengthening of national, subregional and local institutional cooperation, including the promotion of community participation;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to provide technical assistance in disaster response, disaster risk reduction and reduction of urban vulnerability to requesting member States at imminent risk of natural disaster, including through the facilitation of South-South, triangular and city-to-city cooperation;
 6. *Encourages* the Executive Director to consider allocating additional resources, within the work programme and budget and subject to availability, for advocacy, policy and normative support for disaster risk reduction to member States;
 7. *Encourages* Governments in a position to do so and relevant international and regional organizations to disseminate and share, with the support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, their expertise and experience in urban natural-disaster mitigation measures, including hazard mapping, early-warning systems, life saving preparedness and preventive programmes, best practices and appropriate design standards;
 8. *Also encourages* Governments in a position to do so and relevant organizations to provide upon request rapid assistance to countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies in their rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;
 9. *Invites* Governments, donors, relevant civil society groups and organizations, corporations and private sector representatives in a position to do so to contribute to the implementation of the present resolution;
 10. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure implementation of the present resolution through close coordination and collaboration with appropriate multilateral, regional and subregional organizations and agencies, in particular through United Nations country teams under the framework of one United Nations, and to build upon existing regional commitments and initiatives;
 11. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session, in 2013, on the implementation of the present resolution.
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