



Twenty-third session
Nairobi, 11–15 April 2011

Proceedings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-third session

I. Organization of the session (agenda items 1–4)

A. Opening of the session

1. The twenty-third session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was opened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 11 April 2011, by Mr. Clifford Everaldo Warmington (Jamaica), President of the Governing Council.
2. The formal opening of the session was preceded by a welcoming musical performance by young people mostly from Nairobi's Korogocho informal settlement who were part of the Ghetto Classics Programme supported by UN-Habitat.
3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, on behalf of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon; Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; and Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of Kenya.
4. In his statement, Mr. Steiner expressed gratitude to the Government of Kenya for its support for the work of UN-Habitat and UNEP and confidence that UN-Habitat would over the coming years play an increasingly important role in sustainable development. UN-Habitat, he recalled, was the only intergovernmental institution concerned primarily with human settlements and, by association, the joined values of the home and the economy. The opportunities to understand better the dynamics of urban areas were manifold, but so were the tragedies in the cities where over half of humanity lived. Serious deficiencies still existed with regard to disaster management, employment, sustainable livelihoods, the green economy and the very right to life as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
5. UN-Habitat supported, executed and led major programmes in the world's urban settlements, but the United Nations family and the world needed to organize better to support the vision of UN-Habitat and meet the needs of the world's cities. Many projects, such as Nairobi's Ghetto Classics project and those jointly organized by UN-Habitat and UNEP, demonstrated what was possible. The role of the United Nations, he said, was not to dictate, but to show how the international community could align support so that those on the front lines in cities could shape their own futures.
6. As one of its key partners, UN-Habitat worked with UNEP on many issues and at various levels, including the green economy and climate change, where the two programmes strove to mobilize private sector and other support to tackle problems such as urban emissions, infrastructure, energy, transport and human mobility. Continuing to strengthen the partnership with UN-Habitat was a top priority for UNEP, and visible transformative differences over the coming few years would aim at the effective common delivery of results. UN-Habitat and UNEP, he pledged, could deliver as one. UNEP would follow the debate at the current session with keen interest, he said, urging the representatives to view the future of cities through the lens of the human environment and to take very

seriously the transition towards a green economy and sustainable livelihoods. He closed by observing that, while theory kept people busy, it was practice by which people would be measured and judged.

7. Prior to the delivery of the statement by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, a video was screened on the work of UN-Habitat in Haiti as part of the organization's contribution to the lives of the people of Haiti after the earthquake that had afflicted that country in 2010.

8. In his statement the Executive Director welcomed the representatives to Nairobi. He acknowledged the continuing strong presence and support of UNEP and its Executive Director, observing that UN-Habitat and UNEP had strong programmatic and coordination links and common interests in the natural environment, the built environment and indeed most challenges facing humanity. He pointed out that the current session was taking place at a time of significant urban challenges that would be perilous to ignore. Those challenges could be grouped in four sets: demographic; environmental; social and economic; and the evolving form of cities.

9. The demographic challenge was one of movement that was increasing the populations of cities in the developing world: both within and between countries rural-urban migration was increasing, particularly by young people seeking jobs. The environmental challenge could be seen in the increasingly urban nature of environmental degradation: the volume of human-induced greenhouse gases attributable to consumption in urban areas, particularly in the developed world, could be up to 70 per cent, using both production-based and consumption-based methods of measurement; furthermore, as at 2010, most victims of natural disasters were urban-dwellers. The social and economic challenges included a lack of decent jobs for a high percentage of growing urban populations, a problem attributable in part to the worrying trend in developing countries of urban migration without industrialization. Only a few emerging economies, such as those of Brazil, China and India, had begun to provide jobs for their growing urban populations by increasing industrialization. In many other countries, 60–65 per cent of the populations lived in city slums without decent jobs. Developed countries also had their challenges, with growing income and wealth disparities between societal layers. A major planning challenge was one of urban sprawl and burgeoning congestion. Cities were being allowed to spread uncontrollably outwards and were consequently losing the ability to create wealth through economies of scale and agglomeration: sprawling cities laced with congested roads increased transaction costs and diminished efficiency, choking opportunities for new jobs and prosperity for young people.

10. Such challenges notwithstanding, there were messages of hope. Evidence could be seen in many cities where issues were being confronted with best practices that could be adapted to other cities. Perennial pessimism about cities had inspired inaction and a positive approach was needed, emphasizing what cities had always been: places of prosperity, culture, intellectual pursuit, freedom and individual development. He therefore called for a back-to-basics approach grounded on fundamental urban planning principles. The approach did not have to be complex: basic urban planning began with streets and everything else followed. The current urban sprawl could be reversed through increasing density, with dignity, to regain an efficient ebb and flow of city life. Prosperity and quality of life would follow.

11. The city did have a future, he said. While it once had been thought that investing in the countryside could keep people there it was eventually recognized that it was not cost-effective to bring basic services to all rural areas. By the time of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in 1996, there was no alternative to cities. In the twenty-first century, however, the cities were full of slums and there was a need to think again. He therefore requested the representatives to consider a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable development that would change the mood from pessimism to optimism, and to imagine prosperity, freedom and equality, and cities that could be the source of all three.

12. In his statement Mr. Kibaki observed that, with rapid urbanization posing a major challenge in most of the world, it was fitting that the Council's deliberations would be guided by the theme of sustainable urban development through equitable access to land, services and infrastructure. Currently, more than half of the world's population lived in urban areas and by 2050 the figure would increase to 70 per cent, increasing each year by 70 million people, the equivalent of seven mega-cities. One third of the current urban population – more than 1 billion people – lived in informal settlements, where they suffered from a lack of access to land, services and infrastructure. Rapid urbanization was causing the growth of informal settlements and therefore constituted a monumental problem and challenge.

13. He challenged the representatives to use the current session to share country-specific experiences and to draw up creative programmes to tackle the problems. Looking at the experience of Kenya, he drew attention to the problems of transportation, pollution, employment and informal settlements, while suggesting that the implementation of the new Constitution would deal with such

issues. It provided for fundamental rights to housing, water, sanitation and a clean environment, and a national land commission had been established to uphold such principles. The Government, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, would continue to implement the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme to improve the conditions of the people living and working in informal settlements. The Government had also initiated a number of housing incentives to encourage private-sector investment and improvements for low-income groups and was creating enabling legal frameworks. Noting that urbanization could not be dealt with by any one actor alone and that partnerships were therefore essential, he concluded by declaring the twenty-third session of the Governing Council officially open.

14. The text of the Secretary-General's message is reproduced in annex II to the present proceedings.

B. Attendance

15. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

16. The following States not members of the Governing Council participated as observers: Angola, Australia, Austria, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

17. An observer for Palestine also participated.

18. The World Food Programme was also represented.

19. Representatives of national and regional assemblies and parliaments, local authorities and national, regional and international associations of local authorities attended the meeting, as did representatives of non-governmental and private-sector organizations.

20. A full list of those attending the session may be found in the list of participants, which is available under the symbol HSP/GC/23/INF/8.

C. Election of officers

21. At the 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 11 April 2011, Mr. Vincent Karega (Rwanda) was elected President of the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

22. The following other officers were also elected for the session:

Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile)
	Mr. Liu Guangyuan (China)
	Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Heli Sirve (Finland)

D. Credentials

23. In pursuance of rule 16, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau reported to the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on 15 April 2011, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the twenty-third session of the Governing Council and had found them to be in order. The Governing Council approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

24. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Governing Council had before it documents HSP/GC/23/1 and Add.1. The Governing Council adopted the provisional agenda for the twenty-third session as contained in document HSP/GC/23/1, as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council.
7. 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.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

25. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Governing Council established a sessional committee of the whole, to which it allocated agenda items 5, 7 and 8, with issues arising from those and other items also to be given consideration in general debate at the plenary meetings of the Council.

26. The preliminary work of the plenary meetings was divided into two segments; first, a high-level segment, with interventions primarily by ministers and other heads of delegations, which would be held on the first and second days; and, second, a dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners on the special theme of the meeting, to be held on the third day.

27. The Governing Council also established a drafting committee to consider the draft resolutions submitted to the Governing Council.

28. In considering the agenda items, representatives had before them the documents listed for each item in the annotations to the agenda for the session (HSP/GC/23/1/Add.1). A list of those documents arranged by document symbol was issued in document HSP/GC/23/INF/1.

G. Policy statement by the Executive Director

29. Welcoming the representatives, the Executive Director provided an overview of current urban and human settlements challenges. He stressed the importance of changing the approach to those challenges by turning from the current path and deliberately choosing a new one rather than allowing a spontaneous reaction to evolve. Simple and workable approaches to urbanization existed, including a multitude of good examples and best practices that responded to demographic challenges and social and economic inequities and could be replicated around the world. Cities, he said, should be seen as assets rather than liabilities, providing opportunities for growth and increased national wealth. To solve current urban problems, a paradigm shift was required, accompanied by a change in attitude to one of optimism and positive daring.

30. The international community, he said, could not accept the current high proportion of urban-dwellers living in slums in developing countries nor the very high unemployment rates among them. Urban areas in developed countries were also beset by problems, as they were responsible for most greenhouse-gas emissions globally and were places of increasing inequality, low-salaried employment and conflict. It was important for developed countries to recognize that the Earth could not sustain humankind's current energy consumption rates, especially with regard to energy derived from fossil fuels. A new global consensus on the urban future was required, and developed and developing countries had to join together to rethink the future of cities.

31. He called for a return to basics, revisiting the principles of urbanization and learning from the past. A return to basics represented a sound methodology and a good technical choice, and provided a convenient political path to ensure the evolution of more democratic and participatory cities that were able to embrace development and produce economic, social and political results. The transformation of cities would be complex, however, and was likely to distance people from their leaders. It was therefore crucial for the public to understand the work of politicians in relation to urban development.

32. His vision for a new approach to urbanization comprised three basic strategies. The first required the revival of urban planning, which had been out of fashion for several decades, having been rejected as complex, expensive and extremely difficult to accomplish. The starting point for urban

planning should be the simplest step, namely, the planning of streets. Streets represented a common space that involved the community in the management of a common good. They immediately increased the value of land and the ensuing infrastructure development increased land values further in a revolving process of value generation that provided the resources to finance the extension of urban areas. The second strategy was to create urban institutions underpinned by legislation on critical urban issues. Cities could not evolve into prosperity-generating urban spaces without a minimum set of basic institutions that people could understand and to whose regulations they could adhere. The third strategy was to prioritize job creation by urban stakeholders, including mayors, governors and other decision makers. Current unemployment levels were symptomatic of the failure of urban development and management.

33. Turning to the work of UN-Habitat, he said that the organization would focus on basic urban planning and legislation, municipal finance, economic development and job creation. Its mandate was to focus its work through the results-based medium-term strategic and institutional plan. Its management structure and governance were being reviewed against the backdrop of the resource limitations that were affecting its work. Some 65 per cent of its budget was currently devoted to field projects at the national level, and budgetary allocations for such projects were increasing, allowing more to be undertaken. The remaining portion of the budget was devoted to policy and normative work, for which resources were lacking. On the normative side, steps were being taken to increase flexibility and adaptability to the new requirements of the world's urban process; the challenge was to bring about change in the context of decreasing resources. In the light of the diminishing funding within the United Nations system it was important to be pragmatic and efficient, ensuring the optimal use of available resources in the delivery of goods and services. To that end, rules and norms were being reviewed to decrease bureaucracy and delays. He expressed his utmost trust in UN-Habitat staff, noting that a 10 per cent decrease in posts over the previous five months had made a significant contribution to rebalancing the budget. It was, however, crucial to generate new thinking and innovative approaches to challenges. To that end, three working groups had been established, on new urban planning, on urban legislation and on economic development and job creation.

34. He drew attention to a number of issues and decisions to be considered by the Governing Council, including on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development, review of the governance of UN-Habitat, the special theme for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council, the work programme and budget for 2012–2013 and experimental reimbursable seeding operations, before turning to global and national strategies and frameworks for future work on slum upgrading. He said that the lessons of the past 20 years had made clear that the participatory involvement of affected populations was key, as were the introduction of basic water and sanitation services and the provision of streets. Proven ways to improve slums did exist, but they required the cooperative participation of the affected populations and the development in phases of urban infrastructure. It was important to identify the needs of slum-dwellers by listening to them and then to elaborate policies to support them. In closing, he underscored the need to plan the future of cities to ensure wealth, equality and freedom for all.

H. Work of the Committee of the Whole

35. The Committee of the Whole established by the Governing Council at its 1st plenary meeting was chaired by Mr. Liu Guangyuan (China), one of the three vice-presidents of the Governing Council and, in his absence, Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation) a fellow vice-president. It held four meetings between 11 April and 14 April. At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 11 April 2011, the Chair informed the Committee that it would consider agenda items 5, 7 and 8.

36. At its 4th and final meeting, on the afternoon of Thursday, 14 April, the Committee adopted the report of its deliberations. At its meetings, it had succeeded in achieving consensus on all agenda items before it. The report of the Committee of the Whole is reproduced in annex IV to the present proceedings.

I. Work of the drafting committee and adoption of resolutions

37. The drafting committee held 11 meetings during the session and reached agreement by consensus on 18 draft resolutions.

38. Those 18 resolutions, as adopted by the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on the morning of Friday, 15 April, are reproduced in annex I to the present proceedings.

II. High-level segment and dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council (agenda items 5–7)

39. The Governing Council took up agenda items 5–7 at its 1st plenary meeting, at which time it began the high-level general debate on those items. The general debate continued at its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on Monday and Tuesday, 11 and 12 April. A summary of the general debate by the President of the Governing Council is set forth in annex III to the present proceedings.

40. At its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on Wednesday, 13 April, the Council held the dialogue on the special theme for the session under agenda item 6. The dialogue was divided into two panels, each with a moderator, and chaired by the President of the Governing Council. A summary of the dialogue is set forth in annex III to the present proceedings.

III. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 8)

41. The Governing Council considered the agenda item at its 7th plenary meeting, on Friday, 15 April. It adopted decision 23/1 on the provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session, the text of which is reproduced in annex I to the present proceedings.

42. On the recommendation of the Bureau, it was decided that the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council should be held from 15 to 19 April 2013 at UN-Habitat headquarters, Nairobi. One representative suggested that those dates would leave insufficient time to prepare for the meeting, given their proximity to the dates of the session of the Governing Council of UNEP. Another representative requested that the session should not be held in April, as a number of important holidays for countries in Asia would fall during that month. The representative of the secretariat undertook to examine the matter further.

IV. Other matters (agenda item 9)

43. No other matters were discussed.

V. Adoption of the report of the session (agenda item 10)

44. At the 7th plenary meeting, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole gave an oral presentation on the deliberations of the Committee.

45. The report of the session was adopted by the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on Friday, 15 April 2011, on the basis of the draft that had been circulated during the session and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

VI. Closure of the session (agenda item 11)

46. In his closing statement, the Executive Director said that the current session had taken place at a time of immense urban challenges. The resolutions adopted were a good indication of the future progress of UN-Habitat. The organization was challenged by the management review, reorientation of policies and a heavy agenda, but was prepared to tackle those issues, he said, assuring the member States that the resources invested in the organization would be managed well. He expressed appreciation for the approval of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2012–2013, enabling UN-Habitat to pursue the tasks ahead.

47. It was possible to take an optimistic view of the city at the start of the twenty-first century if key areas were considered: first, a new approach to urban planning, returning to basics that were simple and understandable by the population and taking account of new mobility requirements, future demands for energy, climate change considerations and a preventive approach to slum creation; second, a new approach to urban legislation and governance based on practical and relevant instruments that could adapt to the changing needs of cities; third, a new focus on job creation; and lastly, a new perception of cities as an economic asset, rather than a liability, and as a factor of wealth creation if properly managed. The dialogue on the theme of sustainable urban development had advanced the thinking of UN-Habitat and would constitute a valuable contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. He expressed appreciation to the staff of UN-Habitat and the United Nations, in particular Ms. Björk-Klevby, who was retiring from her post as Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

48. Closing statements were delivered by the representatives of Hungary, on behalf of the European Union; Brazil, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; Rwanda, on behalf of the African group; the Russian Federation, on behalf of the Central and Eastern European group; Cuba, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group; Kenya; and Norway.
49. The meeting and session were declared closed at 12.10 p.m. on Friday, 15 April 2011.

ADVANCE

Annex I**Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-third session****A. Decision**

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
23/1	Provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	15 April 2011	9

B. Resolutions

Resolution No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
23/1	Gender equality and empowerment of women in sustainable urban development	15 April 2011	9
23/2	Human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory	15 April 2011	10
23/3	Support for pro-poor housing	15 April 2011	11
23/4	Sustainable urban development through access to quality urban public spaces	15 April 2011	12
23/5	World Urban Forum	15 April 2011	13
23/6	Implementation of the Bamako Declaration and action plan and the strengthening of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development	15 April 2011	15
23/7	Urban youth development: the next step	15 April 2011	15
23/8	Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development	15 April 2011	17
23/9	Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target	15 April 2011	18
23/10	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	15 April 2011	20
23/11	Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2012–2013	15 April 2011	21
23/12	Coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities	15 April 2011	23
23/13	Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	15 April 2011	24
23/14	Sustainable urban development through policies for safer cities and urban crime prevention	15 April 2011	25
23/15	Country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	15 April 2011	27
23/16	Formulation of a global housing strategy	15 April 2011	28
23/17	Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure	15 April 2011	29
23/18	Natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation as a contribution to sustainable urban development	15 April 2011	33

Decision 23/1: Provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council decided that the provisional agenda of its twenty-fourth session would be as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2014–2015.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/1: Gender equality and empowerment of women in sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolutions 17/11 of 14 May 1999 on women in human settlements development and in the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 19/16 of 9 May 2003 on women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading, 20/7 of 8 April 2005 on gender equality in human settlements development, 21/2 of 20 April 2007 on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008–2013, 21/9 of 20 April 2007 on women's land and property rights and access to finance, and 22/7 of 3 April 2009 on the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2010–2011,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/34, by which the Economic and Social Council encouraged all United Nations entities to allocate adequate resources for gender mainstreaming, including for mandatory training on gender mainstreaming, especially gender analysis, for all staff,

Recognizing that persistent gender inequality, women's lack of empowerment and equitable access to land, secure tenure, housing, infrastructure and basic services, in addition to their lack of participation in decision-making, create further challenges within the context of sustainable urban development,

Recognizing also the major development contributions made by grass-roots women worldwide, and that successful urbanization and development processes require grass-roots women's involvement and leadership, which should be supported so as to have a positive impact on sustainable urban development,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which aims to lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system,

Taking note of the challenges to and the progress made in the implementation of the gender equality action plan 2008–2013 described in the report of the Executive Director,¹

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the Gender Mainstreaming Unit and, with the Unit, to manage a unified system of gender focal points and a gender task force effective throughout the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
2. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue strengthening staff capacity and competency in gender mainstreaming, including in the regional offices;
3. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to incorporate fully a gender perspective into all its work;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to encourage the establishment of a consultative mechanism with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the gender units of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and other relevant agencies with a focus on human settlements, to promote coherence, coordination and alignment within the United Nations system and, in particular, to involve grass-roots women and community-based organizations to inform these consultations;
5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to set up an advisory group on gender issues consisting of representatives of women's organizations (both grass-roots and professional organizations), academic institutions, the private sector, local authorities and policymakers and decision makers in Governments, taking into account equal regional representation, to advise the Executive Director on all issues related to gender mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to provide oversight regarding the implementation of the gender equality action plan within the existing programme of work and budget;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth and future sessions.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/2: Human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory²

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 19/18 of 9 May 2003, which endorsed the establishment of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and its resolution 22/11, which called upon member States to provide financial support to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and its Trust Fund;

Recognizing that shelter and human settlements remain key elements in improving the living conditions of Palestinians for building their State, and in reaching a sustainable peace in the Middle East;

Appreciating and recognizing the important efforts of the Palestinian Authority in building the Palestinian institutions in order to improve the human settlements conditions of the Palestinian people while working towards sustainable urbanisation;

Noting the special housing needs of the Palestinian people and the unsustainable urbanisation trends leading to further deterioration in the Palestinian human settlements conditions, re-enforced by the existing situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

Conscious of the housing and human settlement needs of the Palestinian people especially in areas where there are acute humanitarian and development needs;

Expressing the hope that the Palestinians and the Israelis will continue to support and facilitate the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People; and in particular supporting the ongoing discussions toward a smooth flow of building materials into the Gaza Strip from Israel and the West Bank in view of alleviating the housing crisis in Gaza and facilitating economic recovery;

1 HSP/GC23/5/Add.7.

2 The present resolution has been issued without formal editing.

Noting with appreciation the renewed efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as evident in the report of the Executive Director, to mobilise its core technical expertise on planning, land and housing issues as outlined in the Habitat programme document for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2010 – 2011) and the consequent improved focus of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People in line with the Palestinian priorities and complementary to the efforts of other UN and international organisations and member States;

Expressing appreciation to Governments and others for their positive response to the call for financial support included in resolution 22/11;

1. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) to further focus its operations on planning, land and housing issues in view of improving the housing and human settlement conditions of Palestinians, addressing the urbanisation challenges, supporting the building of a Palestinian State, humanitarian action and peace-building, in the areas where there are acute humanitarian and development needs, identified through technical assessments by UN-Habitat in coordination with all concerned parties;

2. Encourages the Palestinian Authority, with support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and as part of its State-building effort, to continue its efforts and further enhance its legal and institutional framework, policies and practices related to planning, land and housing as to prepare the ground for sustainable urbanisation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to set up and chair an advisory board to the Special Human Settlement Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, constituted of representatives to the UN of contributing member states, in order to provide policy guidance to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, taking into account the evolving context, to support fundraising based on identified gaps, to review progress and reporting to the Governing Council and prepare the necessary Governing Council resolutions;

4. *Calls upon* member States and others in a position to do so to financially support the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and its Technical Cooperation Trust Fund as to ensure availability of UN-Habitat's core expertise on planning, land and housing and the implementation of its specific programmes as outlined in the Habitat programme document for the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress with regard to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, including progress in the mobilisation of financial resources for the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/3: Support for pro-poor housing

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the significant improvement in security conditions and increasing political stability in Iraq, culminating in the formation of a national consensus Government that is moving robustly towards achieving adequate and appropriate housing for all Iraqis, especially the poor, slum-dwellers and those lacking shelter,

Noting that adequate and appropriate housing, including for displaced and returnee populations, is a vital factor in securing social stability,

Welcoming and recognizing that, given that poor people in Iraq account for 23 per cent of the total population and that most of them lack adequate housing, the Government of Iraq has recently endorsed pro-poor housing initiatives by allocating a portion of the federal national budget each year from 2012,

Expressing appreciation for the significant assistance and cooperation furnished by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in preparing a national housing policy in Iraq that takes into consideration several issues and dimensions, including the highly significant shortage of housing units, currently estimated to number two million,

Recognizing that the Government of Iraq approved and endorsed the national housing policy on 2 November 2010, thereby obliging all related sectoral ministries to support the implementation of

the policy, including the component regarding pro-poor housing that is also further emphasized by the national development plan for the period 2010–2014,

Recognizing also the endeavours of the Government of Iraq in the general area of housing and, specifically, pro-poor housing,

1. *Strongly encourages* the Executive Director to secure technical assistance to support housing and pro-poor housing initiatives in all stages of planning and implementation and to secure capacity-building in the fields of project management and provision of infrastructure;

2. *Calls upon* all member States in a position to do so and international institutions to support the various projects under way in Iraq throughout their duration.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/4: Sustainable urban development through access to quality urban public spaces

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the World Charter on the Right to the City³ and its resolve that cities should constitute environments of full realization of all human rights and fundamental liberties assuring the dignity and collective well-being of all people, in conditions of equality and justice, and that all persons have the right to find in the city the necessary conditions for their political, economic, cultural, social and ecological realization, while assuming the duty of solidarity,

Taking into consideration the importance of public spaces that are green, safe and socially inclusive,

Noting the outcomes of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and in particular the electronic debate on taking forward the dialogue on the right to the city and bridging the urban divide,

Noting also that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme within the medium-term strategic and institutional plan process highlights the importance of urban planning in the creation of sustainable cities,

Taking note of the most recent *State of the World's Cities* report on the right to the city,

Taking note also of the work of numerous civil society movements worldwide engaged in place-making and engaging the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in advancing the promotion of place-making, public spaces and the enhancement of the quality of urban life,

Mindful of its other resolutions adopted at its twenty-third session on issues pertaining to safer cities, gender and young people,

Taking note of the priorities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on sustainable urban development policies with an emphasis on beginning with the street as a point of communication, commerce, contact and improved access to the city, including access to all modes of transport, and highlighting that city planning for the effective use of streets requires participatory planning, taking into account citizens' needs in all their diversity,

1. *Invites* Governments to formulate and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote socially just and environmentally balanced uses of urban public space in conditions of urban security and gender equity that foster urban resilience;

2. *Invites* Governments and local authorities to facilitate the use of urban public spaces such as streets, parks and markets to foster social, cultural, economic and environmental convergences so that all citizens enjoy access to public spaces in a socially just landscape and under resilient environmental conditions;

3. *Invites* Governments and development partners and encourages local authorities to consider:

(a) Implementing urban environmental planning, regulation and management that promote equilibrium between urban development and the protection of natural, historic, architectural, cultural and artistic heritage, that impede segregation and territorial exclusion, that prioritize social production

3 Available from www.dpi.org/lang-en/events/details.php?page=124.

of public space and that encourage the social and creative economic function of cities and property; for that purpose, cities should adopt measures that foster integration and equity with quality urban public spaces that respect environmentally friendly processes;

(b) Integrating the theme of urban safety for all citizens, especially for women, girls and other vulnerable groups, as an attribute of public space, taking into account gender and age considerations, in the laws regulating the use of public space;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director through the medium-term strategic and institutional plan to advance the agenda on place-making and public spaces in a way that will consolidate local and international approaches to creating inclusive cities, enhance the knowledge of partners of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and local authorities of place-making, public spaces and the quality of urban life and facilitate and implement exchange, cooperation and research between partners working in this field;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with Habitat Agenda partners, to develop a policy approach on the role that place-making can play in meeting the challenges of our rapidly urbanizing world, to disseminate that policy and its results widely and to develop a plan for ensuring its application internationally;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to assist in coordinating partners of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in disseminating knowledge to existing sustainable urban development processes at all government levels;

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

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/5: World Urban Forum

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 for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,⁴

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,⁵

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976 on the pattern of conferences, in which the General Assembly decided that 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 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,

⁴ *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.

⁵ 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 2002,⁶

Expressing appreciation for the report of the Executive Director on the fifth session of the World Urban Forum,⁷

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 to support the participation in the Forum of representatives, including women and young people, from the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of States, including developing countries, and, in particular, least developed countries,

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 in the fifth session, 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 Forum⁸ 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 described in paragraph 9 of that annex, 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 to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

6 Available from www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/4075_58516_report.pdf.

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

8 HSP/GC/23/INF/3.

Resolution 23/6: Implementation of the Bamako Declaration and action plan and the strengthening of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 20/2 of April 2005 on the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development,

Recalling also the Abuja Plan of Action, in which African ministers pledged their commitment to Governing Council resolution 21/8 of 20 April 2007 on the establishment of an African fund for slum upgrading and the eradication of poverty,

Noting the importance of regional forums such as the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in promoting the Habitat Agenda⁹ and issues such as access to land, adequate housing, a safe and healthy environment, basic services and employment and implementing Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals on water, sanitation and slums,

Noting also that the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development fulfils the requirements of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan at the country and regional levels,

1. *Welcomes* the Bamako Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in November 2010, which spell out the commitment of African Governments to improving land governance by stimulating land policy, administration and management to tackle housing and sustainable urban development challenges;

2. *Takes note* of the commitment by the member States of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development to make an annual contribution of 10,000 United States dollars to support the programmes of the Conference in line with the Bamako Declaration;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development at its special session held in Nairobi on 9 and 10 April 2011 to establish a permanent secretariat and to accept the offer of the Government of Kenya to host that secretariat;

4. *Invites* member States and development partners to consider providing financial contributions to support the implementation of the programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue to provide support to the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development for the implementation of its resolutions and action plans and to provide financial and capacity support for the work programme of the Conference for effective delivery, subject to availability of funds, in line with the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme within its available financial resources and the Government of South Africa to continue supporting the preparations for the establishment in Kenya of the permanent secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development;

7. *Invites* the members of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development to continue their endeavours and their commitment to strengthening the Conference as an institution and to implement its decisions on land, housing, finance and basic services for sustainable urban development in Africa.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/7: Urban youth development: the next step

The Governing Council,

Considering that nearly one fifth of the world's population is between 15 and 24 years of age, that that proportion is even higher in the developing world and that that segment of the population is

⁹ *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.

affected by the problems of unemployment, poverty and unsustainable urban development, issues that may be further exacerbated by the global economic crisis,

Considering also that young people are key agents for sustainable human settlements development and positive social change and are vital resources for attaining the development goals related to the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹⁰

Recalling that the Habitat Agenda¹¹ identifies the need to work in partnership with young people to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare young women and men for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development,

Bearing in mind that by its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009 the General Assembly declared August 2010–August 2011 to be the United Nations International Year of Youth, with the theme “dialogue and mutual understanding”,

Noting with appreciation the great interest expressed by urban young people around the world following the implementation of Governing Council resolutions 21/6 of 20 April 2007 and 22/4 of 3 April 2009 and the success of the Urban Youth Fund of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,¹² which has in its first two years of operation awarded grants totalling nearly two million United States dollars to 113 youth groups drawn from a pool of more than 3,000 applications,

Noting also with appreciation the contribution by the Government of Norway to, and the profound interest that it has demonstrated in, the Youth Empowerment Programme and the Urban Youth Fund,

Considering the positive steps made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations agencies and partners, in strengthening the youth agenda and the mainstreaming of issues related to young people in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations system,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, in particular the priority area “full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making”,

1. *Encourages* Governments to give priority and support to urban-youth-led development initiatives and invites multilateral agencies, Governments at all levels, the private sector, universities and other research bodies and civil society to engage and include urban young people in participatory processes of sustainable urban development;
2. *Invites* the above parties in a position to do so to contribute financially to the Youth Empowerment Programme to ensure its continued operation and sustainability;
3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to consider implementing, in line with available resources in the work programme and budget, and with special attention to the recommendations related to the Urban Youth Fund, the following and other recommendations of the recent 2011 evaluation of the Youth Empowerment Programme:¹³
 - (a) Strengthen the programme’s financial basis and human resources;
 - (b) Establish an independent youth unit;
 - (c) Begin the process of outsourcing the grant management of the Urban Youth Fund to the regional offices;
 - (d) Ensure the alignment of the thematic focuses of the Fund with the overall focuses of the key work programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
4. *Also encourages* the Executive Director to strengthen further the participation of young people across the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through the involvement of the Youth Advisory Board, to give priority to urban-youth-led development initiatives and to include urban young people in participatory sustainable urban development processes;

10 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

11 *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.

12 Previously known as the Opportunities Fund for Youth-Led Development.

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

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to evaluate the operation of the Urban Youth Fund after five years and to present the results to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session;
6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the process of mainstreaming young people throughout the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the programme of work and budget, including in its general research activities and publication activities, including in respect of the *State of the Urban Youth* reports, to ensure that all organizational parts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme interact with the Youth Empowerment Programme on all youth-related issues and that youth issues, including those mentioned in the findings of the Urban Youth Research Network and the Global Youth Helpdesk, are substantially incorporated into all operational and normative programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its global reports;
7. *Encourages* the Executive Director to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban young people together with other United Nations agencies to explore the possibility of enhancing the substantial involvement of young people in sustainable urban development;
8. *Encourages* the Executive Director to work towards the goal that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme leads joint efforts on urban youth issues within the United Nations system;
9. *Also encourages* the Executive Director to explore the feasibility of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme appointing goodwill envoys with a focus on urban young people;
10. *Further encourages* the Executive Director to mainstream urban young people in focus areas of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019;
11. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/8: Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976,¹⁴ which formed the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda¹⁵ and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements¹⁶ 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,¹⁷ 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

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

15 *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.

16 *Ibid.*, annex I.

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

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,

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,

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, 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 the 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 development¹⁸ and invites the Secretary-General to include the ideas and proposals set forth therein in the Secretary-General’s 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, 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 progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/9: Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target

The Governing Council,

Recalling the targets set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹⁹ of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the Plan of

¹⁸ HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4.

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development²⁰ to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda,²¹ the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium²² and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,²³

Expressing concern at the continued increase in the number of the world's slum-dwellers, the attainment of the target set forth in the Millennium Development Goals of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers notwithstanding,

Welcoming the commitment by Heads of State and Government at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals²⁴ to continue working towards cities without slums, beyond current targets, by reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum-dwellers, including by accelerating access to safe drinking water and sanitation with adequate support of the international community, by prioritizing national urban planning strategies with the participation of all stakeholders, by promoting equal access for people living in slums to public services, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation and adequate shelter, and by promoting sustainable urban and rural development; and the General Assembly's encouragement to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue providing the necessary technical assistance, as expressed in resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010,

Recognizing the significant role of improved access to land and security of tenure in both improving the lives of slum-dwellers and in preventing slums,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 65/165, in particular its paragraph 4, in which the General Assembly invited the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to consider, at its earliest convenience, appropriate global and national strategies and frameworks for future work, in order to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the current slum-related targets, in the light of the continued increase in the number of slum-dwellers in the world,

1. *Invites* Governments and regional and local authorities to enumerate the slum populations in their countries, regions and urban areas and, on that basis, to set voluntary and realistic national, regional and local targets, to be attained by 2020, with regard to improving significantly the lives of slum-dwellers through the formulation and implementation of national urban development strategies that prioritize improved access to adequate housing and basic services and infrastructure for slum-dwellers, including improved water and sanitation, transport, energy, health and education, and by promoting access to affordable land with secure tenure and creating the conditions, when appropriate, necessary for sustainable urban livelihoods, sustainable urban development and the participation of all stakeholders, in particular slum-dwellers;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to provide, within its current budget and in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan or its subsequent strategic plan, technical and advisory assistance to Governments and regional and local authorities wishing to assess their slum population levels and trends, set voluntary, national, regional and local 2020 targets, prepare national, regional and local slum prevention and upgrading strategies and plans, formulate and implement slum upgrading and housing programmes and monitor implementation progress and report periodically to the Governing Council and the General Assembly in order to assist the international community in the global monitoring of progress and of the scale of work that needs to be done;

3. *Invites* Governments and regional and local authorities to prioritize slum prevention and upgrading and, with the assistance of the international community and financial institutions, to provide adequate financial resources for implementing programmes designed to achieve their 2020 targets on significantly improving the lives of slum-dwellers;

20 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

21 *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.

22 Resolution S-25/2, annex.

23 *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

24 A/RES/65/1.

4. *Invites* the international community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to enable the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to assist developing countries in mobilizing public investment and private capital, through, among other things, public-private partnerships for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

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

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/10: 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

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 United Nations 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 Foundation²⁵ appended by the Secretary-General to the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations²⁶ and requested the Governing Council to address, in a comprehensive manner, any issues relating to the 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,

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,²⁷ 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,²⁸

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

25 ST/SGB/2006/8.

26 ST/SGB/2003/7.

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

28 HSP/GC/23/5/Add.5.

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 progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/11: Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2012–2013

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration²⁹ to achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development³⁰ to reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/203 of 13 March 2006, by which the General Assembly called for increased voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and recognizing the continued urgent need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the Foundation,

Taking note of the progress made to date in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, as reported in the six-monthly progress reports and the medium-term strategic and institutional plan peer review report,

Taking note also of the efforts by the Executive Director to prioritize strategic programme areas, within the framework of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, and of the continuing institutional review,

Taking note further of the challenges and progress made in the implementation of the gender equality action plan set out in the report of the Executive Director,³¹

29 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

30 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

31 HSP/GC/23/5/Add.6.

Having considered the proposed work programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2012–2013³² and the recommendations set forth in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,³³

1. *Approves* the proposed work programme and budget for 2012–2013;
2. *Also approves* the general-purpose budget of 70,221,500 United States dollars and endorses the special-purpose budget of 110,524,800 dollars for the biennium 2012–2013 detailed in the proposed work programme and budget for 2012–2013;
3. *Further approves* an increase in the general-purpose statutory reserve from 6,619,500 dollars to 7,022,150 dollars;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to develop a strategic plan for 2014–2019, including a road map for preparatory work, taking into account the recommendations of the peer review and other reviews of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008–2013, for presentation to and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;
5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consult the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the preparation of prioritized, results-based strategic framework and work programme and budget documents for the biennium 2014–2015, and to ensure that the strategic framework and work programme and budget are aligned with the strategic plan for 2014–2019;
6. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to ensure that the strategic plan for 2014–2019 has the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women as one of its objectives with gender results defined at the higher and lower levels of expected accomplishments and gender outputs per focus area clearly integrated into the work programme;
7. *Also calls upon* the Executive Director to report on a half-yearly basis to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the work programme activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
8. *Further calls upon* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to reprioritize systematically, whenever necessary, the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2012–2013 in a realistic and pragmatic manner in the face of possible substantial changes in funding scenarios and to adjust the level of allocations for programme activities to bring them into line with the actual level of income;
9. *Invites* the Executive Director to inform Governments through the Committee of the Permanent Representatives of any organizational changes that can be considered necessary for the effective implementation of the work programme activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
10. *Strongly encourages* the Executive Director to continue the full implementation of the results-based management system set out in the medium-term strategic and institutional plan;
11. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate general-purpose resources between subprogrammes in an amount of up to 10 per cent of the total general-purpose budget;
12. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in excess of 10 per cent and up to 25 per cent of the total general-purpose budget;
13. *Reiterates* its call for continued financial support to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through increased voluntary contributions and invites Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders where appropriate, to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan;
14. *Requests* the Executive Director to report all reallocations and adjustments to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the quarterly financial reports.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

32 HSP/GC/23/5.

33 HSP/GC/23/5/Add.1.

Resolution 23/12: Coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009 on the guidelines on access to basic services for all and cognizant of the report of the Executive Director on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities,³⁴

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 2 December 2010, by which the General Assembly supported the dissemination and implementation of the two sets of guidelines,

Considering that all basic services listed in paragraph 84 of the Habitat Agenda³⁵ are strongly interrelated both sectorally, as the availability of one is necessary for the production or the delivery of another, and geographically, as they require coordination of policies at various territorial levels,

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the leading role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and for the contribution of other agencies, member States and partners to developing tools for supporting the efforts of interested countries to undertake the coordinated adaptation to national circumstances and implementation of the two sets of guidelines;

2. *Invites* Governments to step up efforts to adapt and implement the two sets of guidelines in a coordinated manner and according to national circumstances by reviewing and improving their legislation, including on the application of multisectoral and multi-stakeholder strategic planning instruments at various territorial levels with emphasis on poor and marginalized settlements, and by reviewing administrative frameworks to avoid overlapping mandates and improve financial mechanisms for ensuring access to basic services for all;

3. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities to engage systematically in a dialogue with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to ensure that their initiatives related to shelter and basic services benefit from the two sets of guidelines;

4. *Urges* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to lay special emphasis in all its programmes related to decentralization and access to basic services on enhancing national-level and regional-level exchanges on the implementation of the two sets of guidelines;

5. *Encourages* coordination between development stakeholders (such as United Nations entities, international financial institutions, development agencies and banks and international associations of local authorities) and invites them to use the two sets of guidelines to promote integrated development approaches for all basic services and support coordinated activities at the national and local levels;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to develop enhanced partnerships with local authorities and their international associations for the implementation and exchange of best practices of the guidelines on decentralization at the national and local levels;

7. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, within the context of the enhanced normative and operational framework of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan, to strengthen the human and financial capacities dedicated to facilitating the development and testing of multisectoral and multi-stakeholder instruments for operationalizing the two sets of guidelines and to assist interested countries, in particular developing countries, to undertake the coordinated adaptation and implementation of the two sets of guidelines;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the progress made in the coordinated implementation of the two sets of guidelines and of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

³⁴ HSP/GC/23/2/Add.5.

³⁵ *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.

Resolution 23/13: Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, by which the General Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements and its Secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations and Human Settlements Foundation, into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recalling also its resolution 22/5 of 3 April 2009, by which it requested the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to undertake jointly an examination of the governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with a view to identifying and implementing ways to improve the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the existing governance structure and to identify options for any other potential relevant changes,

Acknowledging the significance of the prioritization described in the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for improved governance,

Recognizing the potential implications for the governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the outcome of the discussions under the theme of “institutional framework for sustainable development” at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in 2012,

Expressing appreciation for the harmonious working relationship between the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the secretariat in their joint work on the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

1. Welcomes the documents entitled “Quick-wins” and “Medium/long-term interventions” endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives;³⁶
2. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in which he reported on work carried out up to and including 31 January 2011,³⁷ and the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, phase III,³⁸ which was discussed by the joint secretariat and Committee of Permanent Representatives implementation team and details work carried out after 31 January 2011 on the identification of options for further governance changes;
3. Also takes note of the range of options presented in the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, phase III, which are illustrative of the practical possibilities available for consideration;
4. Requests the Executive Director, jointly with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to examine those options further, without prejudice to any other emerging options, their modalities and financial and legal implications, to identify, if necessary, a preferred option;
5. Also requests the Executive Director, jointly with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in an inclusive, transparent and participatory manner:
 - (a) To develop a procedure for the examination phase;
 - (b) To seek consensus on the identified option by member States of the Governing Council;
 - (c) To develop an action plan that defines clearly all steps that must be taken and takes into account rules and procedures of relevant United Nations bodies so that the financial, legal and procedural implications are specified;
6. Further requests the Executive Director to report regularly on the progress made to the Governing Council through its Bureau;
7. Mandates the Committee of Permanent Representatives to approve, if applicable, the action plan on behalf of the Governing Council at a meeting of the Committee;

36 HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1, annex.

37 HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1.

38 HSP/GC/23/INF/7.

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to present, through the appropriate channels, the action plan to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, if possible.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/14: Sustainable urban development through policies for safer cities and urban crime prevention

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,³⁹ the Habitat Agenda⁴⁰ and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,⁴¹ in which member States endorsed the universal goal of ensuring adequate shelter for all, recognizing the need to make human settlements safer and calling for the promotion of determined action against urban crime and violence,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 56/261 of 31 January 2002, 62/175 of 18 December 2007 and 65/230 of 21 December 2010, by which States were called upon to promote international cooperation aimed at supporting crime prevention,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/13 of 24 July 2002, 2003/26 of 22 July 2003, 2005/22 of 22 July 2005 and 2008/24 of 24 July 2008, by which the Economic and Social Council called upon Member States, relevant United Nations bodies and international financial institutions to integrate crime prevention considerations into their social and economic policies and programmes,

Recalling its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009, by which it approved guidelines on access to basic services for all, including public safety as a basic service,

Acknowledging the commitments made in the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,⁴² in which Member States agreed to strengthen international cooperation in order to create an environment that was conducive to the fight against crime, promoting growth and sustainable development and eradicating poverty and unemployment through effective and balanced development strategies and crime prevention policies,

Acknowledging also the commitments made in the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,⁴³ in which Member States stress the need for all States to adopt national and local action plans for crime prevention that take into account, among other things, factors that place certain populations and places at higher risk of victimization and/or offending in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner, and for such plans to be based on the best available evidence and good practices,

Recognizing initiatives taken at the regional level, including the adoption of the Solo Declaration in June 2010, by which signatories underscored the importance of making cities peaceful and liveable for future generations,

Expressing its concern at rising crime rates and growing insecurity in many parts of the world, affecting the quality of life, sustainable livelihoods and human dignity of the inhabitants of cities and towns,

Noting with concern the impact of urban crime and violence on women and vulnerable groups, including street children and young people,

Bearing in mind that crime prevention and urban safety are highly related to institutional, political, economic, social and cultural contexts and that positive measures contribute not only to diminishing violence, but also to strengthening the social fabric in cities,

Mindful of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on whose work the United Nations Human Settlements

39 *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 I.

40 *Ibid.*, annex II.

41 General Assembly resolution S-25/2.

42 A/CONF.203/18.

43 General Assembly resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, annex.

Programme could build in the urban context to ensure complementarity and enhance synergies, among other things,

Recalling the strategic policy decision of the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to establish a safer cities programme in 1996 to support cities in the development and implementation of city crime prevention and urban safety strategies, and to mainstream the programme into urban sustainable development agendas, giving rise to the commitment of many cities and the enhanced contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to effective global, regional and local partnerships for the delivery of urban safety, enhanced through the establishment of a global network on safer cities and complementary cooperation with other networks related to crime prevention,

1. *Encourages* member States to consider, adopt and strengthen, as appropriate, effective urban crime prevention responses at the local and national levels for sustainable urban development and to reinforce the coordination of security, safety and social and economic policies to build safer cities;

2. *Invites* member States to consider the prevention of crime, the building of urban safety and the fostering of social cohesion as priorities to be incorporated into urban planning, management and governance policies;

3. *Also invites* member States to consider an area-based approach when developing policies on the prevention of crime, including by paying special attention to deprived neighbourhoods to ensure social and territorial cohesion;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and specialized international, regional and subregional organizations, to compile best practices on policies, norms and institutional conditions related to urban crime prevention within the context of sustainable human settlements and urban development, focusing on the respective roles and responsibilities of national governments and local authorities on this specific policy area;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in accordance with the Habitat Agenda, the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the strategic plan for safer cities 2008–2013 to mainstream the issue of crime prevention, urban safety and social cohesion as a primary component of sustainable urban development;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to identify the underlying causes of crime and violence in cities and to promote urban crime prevention by enabling productive economic activities in urban areas and sustainable urban livelihoods, thus enhancing the quality of life in cities;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to draft, under the auspices of the Safer Cities Programme, guidelines on access to and delivery of urban crime prevention within the context of sustainable urban development, based on consultations with member States, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, relevant United Nations bodies and concerned stakeholders;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to respond to requests for assistance from local authorities, in accordance with its capacities, in their planning and development of policies and local activities aimed at reducing the impact of crime on the social and economic development of towns and cities;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to use its regional and interregional programmes as mechanisms to promote triangular, South-South, and city-to-city cooperation in this area through exchanges of experts, best practices and policy options;

10. *Invites* member States, key stakeholders and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, where appropriate, to allocate additional regional technical and financial resources to assist the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support local authorities in the strengthening of urban crime prevention public policies, and to support pilot projects of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme that take into account gender and vulnerable groups in all regions to assess the impact of urban crime prevention policies and activities in the strengthening of sustainable urban development;

11. *Appeals* to member States to adopt and implement urban civic intercultural programmes, where appropriate, aimed at combating racism and xenophobia, reducing the exclusion of minorities and migrants and thus promoting community cohesion in cities, as set forth in paragraph 46 of the Salvador Declaration;
12. *Invites* member States and other donors, to the extent possible, to provide technical, human and financial resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support the implementation of the present resolution;
13. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/15: Country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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 its 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 country-level achievements systematically,

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 those updates;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop subregional, regional and interregional programmes as mechanisms 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.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/16: Formulation of a global housing strategy

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, by which the General Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also resolution 17/13 of 14 May 1999 of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, by which the Executive Director was requested to conduct a review of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 within the framework of the Habitat Agenda,⁴⁴

Considering paragraph 65 of the Habitat Agenda, which encourages the periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies with a view to creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems,

Taking note of the report of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum,⁴⁵ in which participants underscored that equitable access to housing and basic urban services required fundamental shifts in current land and housing policies and that new approaches to planning and new paradigms for service delivery were needed,

Welcoming initiatives at the regional level, such as the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization in Latin American and the Caribbean, and acknowledging the work carried out by those forums as valuable contributions to further promoting equitable access to housing,

Acknowledging that a well-functioning housing sector is key to attaining sustainable urban development,

⁴⁴ *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.

⁴⁵ HSP/WUF/5/3.

Emphasizing that a global housing strategy promoted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme will provide general guidance in terms of housing policies to be implemented in accordance with regional and local circumstance within the context of sustainable urban development,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and with relevant local government executing agencies of housing projects funded by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to review the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and to formulate a new global housing strategy;
2. *Invites* Governments to support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in undertaking the above-mentioned tasks;
3. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to take into account, in the development of a new global housing strategy, the challenges of providing adequate and sustainable housing and basic infrastructure and the need to integrate housing policies into broader urban planning strategies and governmental actions, aligning them with other social, economic and environmental policies;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/17: Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure

The Governing Council,

Recalling the targets set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁴⁶ of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and halving by 2015 the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the target agreed in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development⁴⁷ to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁴⁸ in which Heads of State and Government resolved, among other things, to achieve 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, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009, which outlines the three objectives of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development; to assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development; and to address new and emerging challenges) and further specifies two themes for the Conference, to be discussed and refined during the preparatory process: the green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and an institutional framework for sustainable development,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 20/2 of 8 April 2005, on the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, and its paragraph 4, on other regional organizations, such as the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development,

Acknowledging the Bamako Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in November 2010, the Solo Declaration and the Solo Implementation Plan adopted at the Third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and

46 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

47 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

48 General Assembly resolution 61/1 of 16 September 2005.

Urban Development on 24 June 2010 and the Buenos Aires Declaration adopted at the nineteenth Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization of Latin America and the Caribbean on 3 September 2010,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda,⁴⁹ in particular its paragraphs 65 and 67, which encourages the formulation and periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies, with a view to creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems, as the cornerstone for the provision of shelter for all,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001 adopting the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, by which the Assembly resolved to promote access to safe drinking water to all and to facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport, through transparent and accountable management of public services and partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations for the delivery of those services,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly supported the dissemination and implementation of the international guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services for all adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in its resolutions 21/3 of 20 April 2007 and 22/8 of 3 April 2009,

Recalling, as part of the International Year of Biodiversity, the Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 of 26 October 2010 and the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity endorsed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision X/22, in October 2010,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/153 of 20 December 2010, promoting a global effort to realize sustainable sanitation through “Sustainable sanitation: the five-year-drive to 2015”, which is of particular relevance in growing cities and slums where poor sanitation and lack of wastewater treatment seriously endanger public health and water resources,

Recognizing the need to minimize the negative impacts of climate change on human settlements, especially by reducing the vulnerability of poor populations and increasing the adaptive capacities of cities,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements⁵⁰ and paragraph 75 of the Habitat Agenda, the latter of which encourages legal access to land to be seen as a strategic prerequisite for the provision of adequate shelter for all and for the development of sustainable human settlements affecting both urban and rural areas,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 65/165 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly encouraged Governments to support the World Urban Campaign as an important tool for promoting the administration of land and property issues, and 59/239 of 22 December 2004, by which the General Assembly encouraged Governments to support the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign for Urban Governance as important tools for promoting the administration of land and property rights,

Recognizing the notable contributions of the Global Land Tool Network facilitated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to building partnerships for developing and implementing land tools at scale, to championing the cause of the poor and vulnerable groups such as women and slum-dwellers, to promoting inclusive land policies and to developing affordable and equitable land administration systems that emphasize the important transitional role played by intermediate tenure and incremental approaches,

Emphasizing that sustainable urban development is essential for humankind and that Governments need to formulate appropriate policies and make deliberate interventions to create an enabling environment for the provision of secure tenure rights and the delivery and management of land, housing, basic services and infrastructure,

Understanding the imperative need for all levels of government to work together in a coherent approach to service provision,

49 *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.

50 *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 I.

1. *Welcomes* the dialogue on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council, contributing to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012, and requests the Executive Director to ensure the transmission, through the President of the Governing Council, of the results of the dialogue to the Bureau of the Conference;

2. *Takes note* of the theme paper of the Executive Director on the dialogue of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council entitled “Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure”;⁵¹

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure the involvement of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

4. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners:

(a) To include the issue of sustainable urban development in their contributions to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including on the two themes identified in paragraph 20 (a) of General Assembly resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009;

(b) To develop strategic responses to the problems of sustainable urban development, building on the recommendations of the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly;

(c) To mobilize the commitment of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners at the international, national and local levels to promote decentralization and improve urban governance to ensure expanded equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure and to secure tenure rights for all segments of society within an integrated urban governance and sustainable urban development framework;

5. *Also encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, with regard to urban planning, mobility, climate change and biodiversity issues:

(a) To consider seriously increasing urban density through intensification of land use, as part of improved urban planning, so as to promote development patterns that allow housing for all, increased job opportunities and reduced urban sprawl, to reduce infrastructure investment costs, the ecological footprint of urban centres and demand for transport and energy use, and to overcome a growing social divide, spatial fragmentation and resulting land use patterns;

(b) To address this social divide through support for strategic planning approaches that seek to balance the dimensions of sustainable urban development (social, economic and environmental) based on wide consultative processes;

(c) To promote public transport and mass transit systems, non-motorized transport and the provision of equitable space for pedestrians and cyclists, along with improvements in road systems and urban connectivity;

(d) To invite international agencies to facilitate the improvement of access by cities, and by local and regional authorities, to climate change mitigation and adaptation financing, prioritizing countries that are most vulnerable to climate change, including least developed countries and small island developing States, and to monitor the implementation of any projects funded for appropriateness and completion;

(e) To undertake coordinated action to promote cities and biodiversity, including urban forestry and urban wetlands and ecosystems services, as an integral part of their sustainable urban development strategies, and to cooperate with developing countries and their local authorities to strengthen their capacities in promoting, measuring, monitoring and protecting urban biodiversity and developing local biodiversity strategies and action plans;

6. *Further encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, with regard to increasing access to land, basic services and infrastructure options, to consider:

51 HSP/GC/23/4.

(a) Reforming regulatory and institutional frameworks, codes, norms, laws and standards, if necessary, and developing and implementing enabling policies, regulations and strategies, taking into consideration the implementation of comprehensive systems of social protection;

(b) Strengthening the capacities of administrative and financial institutions and delivery systems responsible for expanding access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, particularly by the poor, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;

(c) Promoting integrated urban governance to foster the participation of beneficiary groups in the decision-making process and to support the efforts of cities and local and regional authorities to innovate and learn from one another through the sharing of information, innovative ideas, expertise and best practices to meet the challenges that they face in the areas of land, housing, basic services and infrastructure;

(d) Promoting decentralization and the role of local authorities and enabling institutional frameworks for partnerships with service providers and civil society, sustainable financing, pro-poor policies and environmental sustainability in the delivery of basic services for all;

7. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, with regard to land issues:

(a) To implement land policy development and regulatory and procedural reform programmes, if necessary, so as to achieve sustainable urban development and to manage climate change better, ensuring that land interventions are anchored within effective land governance frameworks;

(b) To promote security of tenure for all segments of society by recognizing and respecting a plurality of tenure systems, identifying and adopting, as appropriate to particular situations, intermediate forms of tenure arrangements, adopting alternative forms of land administration and land records alongside conventional land administration systems, and stepping up efforts to achieve secure tenure in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;

(c) To review and improve urban land governance mechanisms, including land and spatial planning administration and management, land information systems and land-based tax systems, so as to strengthen tenure rights and expand secure and sustainable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, particularly for the poor and women;

(d) To create mechanisms for broadening land-based revenue streams, including by improving the competencies and capacities of local and regional authorities in the field of land and property valuation and taxation, so as to generate additional local revenue for pro-poor policies and to finance infrastructure development;

8. *Also encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, with regard to housing issues:

(a) To foster the development of a thorough assessment of the performance of their housing sectors;

(b) To promote enabling housing policies, including slum upgrading initiatives, and reforms that facilitate the delivery of affordable and adequate housing solutions for all social groups;

(c) To enhance the contribution of the housing sector to national economic development through policy and institutional reforms;

(d) To provide support for the development of a global housing strategy and its presentation to the Governing Council and the General Assembly, as outlined in the medium-term strategic and institutional plan 2008–2013;

9. *Invites* the international community and financial institutions to contribute adequate financial resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to enable the Programme to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in mobilizing public investment and private capital to achieve sustainable urban development;

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

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Resolution 23/18: Natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation as a contribution to sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

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

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 and 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,⁵² 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, by which the General Assembly called upon the United Nations system to integrate the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/264 of 28 January 2011, by which, among other things, the General Assembly called for the updating of early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, called for additional international cooperation efforts to broaden the use of national, local, regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, and urged 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 its resolutions 19/7 and 19/9 of 9 May 2003 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, by which the General Assembly 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 of 8 April 2005 and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Strategic Policy on Human Settlements and Crisis,

Recalling also its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009 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 mechanisms and in emergency assistance and reconstruction and recovery of areas damaged by disasters and extreme-climate-change-related events,

⁵² A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

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 established parameters, including the production of guidelines and training programmes and the collection and dissemination of best practices;
2. *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. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that all necessary financial and administrative mechanisms, including dedicated extrabudgetary resources, are in place to enable, within the work programme and budget, upon request by member States, the 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. *Further 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, to 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 on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011*

Annex II

Message by the Secretary-General

It is a pleasure to send greetings to UN-Habitat's Governing Council. Thank you for your commitment to our shared pursuit of cities that are beautiful, green, sustainable and humane places to live and work. As our world becomes more and more urbanized, imagining the cities of the future is imagining the very future of humanity.

The urban era we are entering has many unknowns, chief among them the growing dangers associated with climate change. Moreover, what we know already is just as daunting. Since the articulation of the Millennium Development Goals more than a decade ago, 55 million new slum dwellers have been added to the global population. Most global population growth is expected to take place in the urban areas of the developing world. And everywhere, we can expect a huge demand for more land, housing, basic services and infrastructure.

We have the science and technology to build smarter cities and cope with the challenges of urban expansion. We know what policies would strengthen urban good governance and improve the way cities handle such key issues as housing, land use, equitable access to land, inheritance and shelter rights, sanitation and energy efficiency.

Our collective challenge is to stimulate sustainable urban development and the transition towards a green economy. Your deliberations are also an important opportunity to ensure that the urban development agenda is fully reflected at next year's United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20.

Cities, as they have for centuries, play a central role in the advancement of human progress. Let us ensure that all their citizens enjoy the well-being they need to continue making those unique and invaluable contributions. Please accept my best wishes for a successful session.

ADVANCED

Annex III

Summaries by the President of the Governing Council of the general debate on agenda items 5–7 and of the dialogue on the special theme of the twenty-third session

I. High-level debate on agenda items 5–7

1. The Governing Council took up agenda items 5–7 at its 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 11 April 2011, which took the form of a high-level general debate on those agenda items. The general debate continued at the Council's 2nd, 3rd and 4th plenary meetings, on Monday and Tuesday, 11 and 12 April 2011.
2. Many representatives took as their starting point what they said was the basic theme underlying any debate on human settlement – the fundamental human right to adequate housing and shelter and to dignified living conditions. Several representatives presented their views on the desirable components of the city of the future, including security of tenure, use of renewable energy resources, peaceful coexistence, habitable dwellings and adequate infrastructure, including provision of clean water, sanitation and access to urban services. Several representatives stressed the important positive role that urban centres played in the economic, social and cultural life of countries and regions.
3. The challenges to that vision were recognized by many who spoke. Towns and cities were under relentless pressure from demographic, economic and social changes, including rural-urban migration, increases in the proportion of young people (youth bulge), ageing populations in developed countries, increasing strain on services and infrastructure, urban sprawl, expanding slums, rising food prices and growing social unrest and conflict. Processes aimed at developing solutions, including decentralized governance, brought additional challenges.
4. In the light of recent events, several representatives drew attention to the physical threats facing cities and their inhabitants. Examples included the continuing threat of climate change, the devastating floods in Pakistan, and the earthquake and tsunami and subsequent damage to nuclear power facilities in Japan. The representatives of Japan and Pakistan expressed their gratitude for the offers of assistance that had been extended to their countries from around the world, reflecting the importance of international solidarity in dealing with such challenges. A number of representatives spoke of the need to strengthen the resilience of cities and their capacity to respond to the multiple threats associated with extreme weather conditions that they increasingly faced.
5. Many representatives placed those challenges within the broader political context. Several mentioned the continuing relevance of many facets of human settlements to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability and its target to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, praised the notable achievements made in that regard, adding that many municipal and local governments had proven to be important actors in dealing with various development-related targets, although the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, which had taken place in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, had shown that some regions were lagging behind on several of the targets.
6. A number of representatives mentioned the relevance of sustainable urban development to the three pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social development, and environmental protection. One representative said that that linkage should be pursued in an equitable manner, applying the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, with due regard for the economic, social and environmental needs of individual countries. Some representatives said that improved urban planning could contribute to the green economy, for example through promoting resource efficiency; others, however, cautioned that the concept of the green economy still required further clarification and development, particularly with regard to equity and poverty reduction.
7. Given that context, many representatives noted the timeliness and aptness of the central theme of the current session of the Governing Council – sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure – and welcomed the opportunity to bring those issues to the fore. One representative said that unpredictable and dynamic realities required an adaptive and flexible approach in pursuing such an ambitious agenda.

8. There was broad-ranging debate on the means by which the aims captured by the theme might be achieved. Many representatives stressed the need for multisectoral, multi-stakeholder cooperation and action to deal with the complexity of the challenges faced in urban environments. One noted that the international debate had evolved from a desire to contain urbanization to a desire to prepare for it. Representatives mentioned a number of actions required in specific areas to improve the liveability of urban areas, including energy-efficient transport systems and buildings, improved solid waste management, adequate sanitation, clean water and infrastructure development.

9. Several representatives underscored the need to ensure inclusiveness in developing solutions to urban problems, giving due regard to the needs of groups that were often marginalized, including women, young people, older persons, the physically challenged and the poor, and putting in place systems of participation that enabled the voices of all stakeholders to be heard.

10. A constant theme of the debate was the huge challenge of financing sustainable urban development within the overall policy structure of a country. A number of representatives discussed the complementary roles that could be played by the public and private sectors in providing housing, particularly for low-income groups, and the extent to which subsidies or the provision of credit facilities could assist in that regard. One representative cautioned that an international policy environment centred on market-based solutions to housing development and loans for urban infrastructure held the danger of undermining the rural economy and endangering provision of affordable housing.

11. Many representatives described the programmes being undertaken in their own countries to improve the urban environment, increase the liveability of towns and cities and provide housing for growing urban populations. There was widespread acknowledgement of the need to adopt an integrated approach, employing the skills and resources of a network of governmental, non-governmental and private-sector actors. Priority activities included slum upgrading, provision of housing for poor populations, construction of public utilities and provision of access to basic services. Several noted the importance of developing a supportive policy, legislative and regulatory framework, particularly with regard to land tenure and rights, and outlined actions that had been undertaken in their countries in that regard. Several of those policy structures included provision for decentralization and increased engagement of local authorities. The importance of developing innovative funding mechanisms appropriate to the economic and social needs of each country was also highlighted by several representatives. A number of representatives described financial mechanisms put in place to assist in the provision of affordable housing, including the establishment of national housing funds. Furthermore, numerous countries were placing increasing emphasis on data gathering, monitoring and analysis as means of informing housing policy.

12. In addition, several representatives described and welcomed initiatives at the regional level, including the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called upon UN-Habitat to work closely with, and provide necessary support to, relevant regional bodies. Several representatives noted that regions differed considerably in their urban characteristics – in Asia and the Pacific, for example, rapid urbanization had gone hand in hand with high levels of economic growth – and regional approaches were beneficial in devising shared solutions to the problems faced. Reflecting the importance of international cooperation, one representative described the activities of United Cities and Local Governments in promoting improved governance as a means of achieving common goals in sustainable urban development. Some representatives mentioned the need for greater South-South cooperation, including in dissemination of best practices. Several saw promise in extending the relatively new concept of triangular cooperation, with UN-Habitat playing a key role.

13. Considerable attention was paid during the debate to the role of UN-Habitat. Many representatives praised the Programme for its efforts to deal with the challenges facing urban settlements and expressed their commitment to continue supporting it in its endeavours. One representative said that studies had shown that much of the work carried out at the programme level by UN-Habitat had been relevant, innovative, cost-efficient and of excellent quality, the Programme's limited resources notwithstanding. Another commended UN-Habitat for building new partnerships with the private sector.

14. Several representatives expressed appreciation for the supportive activities of UN-Habitat in their countries and regions, with some calling upon the Programme to strengthen its regional offices and to increase its presence at the country level to bolster the implementation of projects. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, placed particular emphasis on the

importance of work undertaken by UN-Habitat in developing countries, stating that the Programme had a major role to perform in promoting capacity-building, facilitating the exchange of experiences and encouraging technology transfer. The representative of the Republic of Korea said that his country would support UN-Habitat by making available its International Urban Training Center for capacity development in Asia and the Pacific.

15. Many representatives welcomed the arrival of Mr. Joan Clos as the new Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and there was broad support for the direction in which he was guiding the Programme. Many spoke of the process of change and adaptation taking place within UN-Habitat, particularly with regard to the examination of the governance of UN-Habitat with a view to improving its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, as called for by the Governing Council in its resolution 22/5 of 3 April 2009. There was overall recognition of the need for internal reform and support for the governance review process as it reached the conclusion of its third phase, and appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the governance review implementation team. Several representatives called upon the Executive Director to increase the current momentum to implement the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and related work programme. Some representatives further referred to the fresh opportunities emerging for UN-Habitat as the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 drew to its close. One representative said that the results-based framework was an important tool for guiding the direction of UN-Habitat.

16. The continuing challenge of funding for UN-Habitat and its activities was highlighted during the debate. Several representatives called for development partner countries to ensure adequate financing for UN-Habitat through their voluntary contributions. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed all efforts to increase the predictability of funding and non-earmarked contributions to support the medium-term strategic and institutional plan. The representative of Kenya encouraged the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue exploring ways of addressing the perennial challenge of imbalance between the earmarked and non-earmarked contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation; to assist in that regard, the Government of Kenya would increase its annual contribution to the Foundation from \$60,000 to \$70,000, as from 2012. The representative of Zimbabwe said that his Government pledged, in 2011, \$10,000 to the Foundation in appreciation of the mutual cooperation enjoyed with UN-Habitat.

17. One representative said that, in the face of its financial challenges, UN-Habitat should refocus its attention on its unique mandate by setting clear priorities and concentrating on its normative work, where it had a comparative advantage and could demonstrate leadership. To achieve that, the organization needed to become more nimble, transparent and accountable, and to lay greater emphasis on demonstrating effectiveness to present and prospective donors. Another representative called upon UN-Habitat to maintain a harmonious balance between its normative work at headquarters and the implementation of projects in the field. Another representative said that the reform process should continue apace, financial constraints notwithstanding, highlighting the development of strategic guidelines as a priority activity within the medium-term strategic and institutional plan. He drew attention to the guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities (2007) and on access to basic services for all (2009). UN-Habitat and member States should intensify their efforts to integrate the guidelines as two cross-cutting strategies in their programmes to support access to basic services for all.

18. There was some discussion on the outcomes of recent meetings of relevance to UN-Habitat and its agenda. Several representatives expressed satisfaction at the outcomes of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, which had taken place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 22 to 26 March 2010. One representative said that the Forum was essential to pursuit of the Habitat Agenda and urged UN-Habitat to strengthen coordination of the Forum. Another said that deliberations at the fifth session had shown that equitable access to shelter required new approaches to urban planning. In that regard, the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted by the General Assembly in 1988, urgently required review and reformulation to align it with current priorities and realities.

19. Upcoming events, and the role that UN-Habitat might play in contributing to the agenda of those events, were also discussed. Among the most significant was the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to take place in Rio de Janeiro from 4 to 6 June 2012. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, urged UN-Habitat and its partners to participate actively in the conference, given that sustainable development could not be accomplished without sustainable urban development. Another representative said that debate at the conference on the institutional framework for sustainable development could, in turn, inform the governance review process of UN-Habitat. One representative expressed the hope that there would be

a strong UN-Habitat presence at the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011.

20. Several representatives welcomed plans to convene a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development, scheduled for 2016, and called for a constructive debate to inform the agenda for that conference.

II. Dialogue on the special theme: Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure

21. At its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on Wednesday, 13 April 2011, the Council held a dialogue on the special theme for the session, sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land and housing, basic services and infrastructure. The dialogue consisted of a morning and an afternoon session. Each session featured a moderator and a panel of speakers, opening statements, presentations by the panel members, comments from the floor and reactions from the panellists. Ms. Heli Sirve (Finland), the rapporteur for the dialogue, prepared summaries of the two sessions and a list of key messages for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

22. The first session, which took place in the morning, was on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land and housing. It was chaired by the President of the Governing Council, who introduced it with opening remarks. Additional opening remarks were made by the Executive Director; by Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; and by Ms. Ana Maria Sampaio Fernandes, Permanent Representative of Brazil to UN-Habitat. The panellists were Mr. Ahmed Taoufiq Hejira, Minister of Housing and Urban and Regional Planning, Morocco; Mr. Peter Götz, President of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat; Ms. Sheila Patel, Chair of Shack/Slum Dwellers International; and Mr. Hugo Priemus, Professor, Delft University of Technology.

23. The afternoon session was on sustainable urban development through expanding access to basic services and infrastructure. Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation), Vice-President of the Governing Council, represented the President of the Governing Council as Chair. He who introduced the session with opening remarks. The panellists were the President of the Governing Council, speaking as the Minister for Infrastructure of Rwanda; Ms. Dhamikka Wijaysinghe, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Services of Sri Lanka; Mr. M. A. Masunda, Mayor of Harare and Co-President of the United Cities and Local Governments; and Mr. Stéphane Quéré, Co-Chair, Urban Infrastructure Initiative, World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Concluding remarks were provided by Ms. Ana Marie Argilagos, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States of America.

III. Session 1: Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land and housing

A. Opening remarks

24. In his opening remarks the President of the Governing Council stressed that land was critical to the effective delivery of housing, infrastructure and services. It was crucial to providing equitable access to decent living space and livelihoods for urban citizens, especially the poor and particularly vulnerable groups. Access to land was of limited use if unaccompanied by policies, legislation and systems that ensured security of tenure. Empirical evidence and experience demonstrated the importance of inclusive and innovative land policies and a sound land governance framework. Efforts to eradicate poverty and enhance sustainable urban development were futile without equitable access to land and security of tenure for all. Promoting the effective use of land with a view to stimulating compact growth of existing urban spaces and promoting optimal acquisition of land at the urban fringes was critical to avoiding urban sprawl, creating well-planned spaces with infrastructure and services and managing the effects of climate change. He further stressed that housing was central to development and could generate employment and promote green building practices. The linkages between the housing sector and other parts of the economy constituted a powerful instrument to boost sustainable urbanization, as housing accounted for some 20 per cent of capital formation in countries' gross domestic product.

25. He noted that the themes of the green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and the institutional framework for sustainable development, both of which would be considered at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, would be integrated into the current dialogue as they related to land and housing. Panellists would provide a range of perspectives on key issues. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that urban issues were mainstreamed in the Conference, which represented a key milestone for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and would set the direction for sustainable development for the foreseeable future. The dialogue was intended to further discussions in that regard and facilitate the development of key messages to the Conference.

26. In his opening statement the Executive Director expressed the hope that the dialogue would contribute to solving urban problems in a world in which nearly 1 billion people worldwide were living in slums and substandard housing. Research had clearly established key approaches to urban planning. First, planning had to be proactive rather than reactive as it had been to date. Given that cities were to grow by 50 per cent in the coming 5–10 years, it was essential to plan in advance for such an increase. Second, the concept of urban planning had to be addressed on a scale equal to the scale of the problem. Third, planning had to be effected in phases and had to be pragmatic; it should be affordable if the starting point was taken as public space, i.e., the street, which provided capacity for mobility, social interaction and infrastructure.

27. He emphasized the great importance of public land in the urban context, saying that enough should be set aside to ensure the functionality of the city. There were many pressures on public land and it was essential to dedicate approximately 30 per cent to streets, with additional land allocated to public spaces and services, churches, sports and health facilities, schools, and other such uses. The result, however, of allocating too much land to streets as in some twentieth-century cities dedicated to the car, was a lack of density, divided neighbourhoods, alienation and the loss of economies of agglomeration. Most African cities had only about 15 per cent of land allocated to streets, which was insufficient to generate a cycle of growth, improvement and value in modern economies.

28. In conclusion, he emphasized that it fell to Governments to defend public space. Competition for public land was a political issue, and fine-tuning the allocation of public land was a reflection of the culture of a society. He welcomed the participation of representatives of Slum/Shack Dwellers International, as they were keenly aware of the need to defend streets in the interest of mobility and as a means of communication. Recent tragic fires in Nairobi slums had shown the inability of the fire services to act expeditiously as a result of a lack of space for mobility. In his view, the first priority and next step in urban planning was to tackle the issue of public space dedicated to streets.

29. In her statement Ms. Thompson said that there was inevitable conflict when cities developed in an ad hoc manner without proper planning. Cities were engines of national economies but faced significant demographic changes that were producing urban sprawl and pressure on space. The populations of African and Asian cities would double by 2030, and most immigrants would be poor, uneducated and unable to generate wealth for themselves or their communities. Cities would grow ever more hard-pressed to provide amenities, and due to the shrinking agricultural production of rural communities cities would struggle to provide enough food for their citizens. Climate change and natural disasters exacerbated the stress, and cities were at the nexus of many global crises, such as insecurity and water scarcity. The world was witnessing a battle of green versus brown economies and the eradication of slums must be pursued.

30. Greater collaboration between Governments would be necessary to meet the challenges. Many cities were rising to those challenges with innovative plans and approaches that needed to be strengthened and promulgated. Land-use change must focus on a mixed development-planning model. Managers of developing-country cities needed to look carefully at basic services, energy, solid waste and health care to attain the Millennium Development Goals. Environmental issues were at the heart of most of the challenges, including water, energy, sustainable production and consumption, climate change and natural disaster impacts. Urban planners needed to plan for risk management in disasters, as seen recently in India, Japan and other countries.

31. The green economy would be central to the management and mitigation of the problems. Cities were at the heart of proposed transitions to a green economy, in areas such as logistical planning and transport, market strategies and a transition to a no-carbon future. Governments must develop financial mechanisms and incentives in addition to the means to build on natural capital. There had to be total commitment to devising policies at key interfaces – national-local and government-business. Culture was important to many issues relating to cities, and cultural charm and heritage had to be preserved and included in planning, both for the self-esteem of inhabitants and as a basis for tourism,

which required innovative approaches. The integration of diverse urban cultures was needed to achieve creative pluralistic identities.

32. She reported on the progress in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, saying that there had to date been two preparatory committee sessions and two intersessional meetings. The final session would be held immediately before the conference itself. A questionnaire had been circulated to all States to seek their input for the planning of the conference. As the response had not been encouraging, she urged the representatives to put pressure on their Governments to respond.

33. The current Governing Council session, she concluded, could be seen as a good start to embedding urban planning into the process of preparing for the Conference. She requested member States to become fully engaged and said that she looked forward to working with UN-Habitat to develop sustainable cities worldwide.

34. In her statement Ms. Fernandes focused on urban growth in Latin America, particularly Brazil. She said that the Earth was increasingly a planet of cities and that good governance of those cities lay at the heart of concerns for the present and future of humanity. Urbanization was not a new phenomenon in Latin America, which was the most urbanized continent after Europe and North America. In Brazil, 86 per cent of the population was already living in urban areas. The rapidity of growth had affected the capacity of many cities to respond to the challenge, with proper planning compromised by a constant need to solve problems reactively, and effective land management and provision of adequate shelter had proved difficult to achieve.

35. In 2001 Brazil had promulgated the Statute of the City, which had arisen from a multisectoral movement involving many stakeholders. The Statute provided a legislative framework for the implementation of urban policies, establishing urban planning instruments to be adopted at the national, state and municipal levels of governance. It made available fiscal and legal instruments to respond to urban challenges, for example through progressive taxation of idle land. In 2003, the Ministry of Cities was created to support those policies and to provide a framework for action. In Brazil, municipalities enjoyed considerable autonomy to manage their own territory and the legal right to generate their own resources, for example from self-financing investment plans, charging for services and employing fiscal tools, and several municipalities had been creative and innovative in that regard. A proportion of the income generated was used to invest in infrastructure in poorer zones.

36. At the national level, supporting processes were in place for such issues as security of tenure, capacity-building and provision of technical assistance. Security of tenure was considered to be particularly important, and an initiative to establish and document property rights in slums had proved a successful tool in upgrading slums and providing basic services. The housing policy of 2004 aimed to ensure access to housing for all and laid down guidelines for slum upgrading. Supportive financing mechanisms had been put in place so that groups of slum-dwellers could secure financing for self-help housing construction. Within the Ministry of Cities, the Cities Council, which monitored urban development policies, was a very participatory body, including many representatives of civil society in addition to representatives of the three levels of governance. In conclusion, she said that equitable access to land and housing was fundamental to achieving sustainable urban development, which was in turn an essential component of sustainable development. UN-Habitat therefore had a significant role to play in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, where it would have the opportunity and responsibility to strengthen the social dimension of the concept of sustainable development.

B. Panellist presentations

37. Mr. Hejira, in his presentation, welcomed the theme selected for the current session, which he said lay at the heart of developing countries' concerns in responding to the challenges of urban disintegration, increasing exclusion, lack of security and political instability. Global challenges included the acceleration of urban growth in the context of the increasing scarcity and cost of land, unequal access to land-based resources, an increase in the number of people living in slums, expected to exceed 1 billion in 2012 and 2 billion in 2030, poverty and the increasing marginalization of the poor. There had been a general failure to provide infrastructure and affordable urban housing against a backdrop of increasing national and transnational migration and the negative impacts of massive uncontrolled urbanization and degradation of natural resources. In Africa, the pace of the growth of slums was the highest in the world, and insufficient resources were being allocated to the development of infrastructure and basic services. Land policies were unsuitable as a result of complex legal systems and the absence of standards and reliable institutional frameworks. Overly cumbersome and obsolete planning systems were not adapted to the dynamic pace of towns and cities and the urban economy was not competitive and did not facilitate wealth creation for most low-income earners.

38. To respond to the challenges, he suggested the innovative reform of land systems and tools to improve land management and to facilitate access to land; more rational planning approaches and land-use methods; the strengthening of local authorities to facilitate more participatory decision-making; the strengthening of the role of elected representatives, civil society and community groups in the development, monitoring and follow-up of urban development projects; the application of innovative means of financing for housing, infrastructure and services; the strengthening of production systems for the gradual integration of the informal economy to increase personal and collective income; the promotion of land management that was respectful of the environment; and the integration and taking into account of the Millennium Development Goals in the implementation of public policies.

39. In his presentation Mr. Götz discussed access to housing. In a rapidly changing world in which more than half the population lived in urban centres, international dialogue on sustainable urbanization, particularly against the backdrop of the continuing global economic crisis, was more important than ever. Failure to tackle the issues would have a negative impact on housing supply, leading to increasing scarcity, rising costs and declining quality. He suggested that access to housing should form part of integrated sustainable urban development, especially as it was enshrined as a right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and had been incorporated into national legislation in many countries. Outlining methods to ensure access to housing for the poor, he noted that even some developed countries were grappling with a lack of adequate housing and that the problem was acute in developing countries, where there was a lack of financial resources and clear guidelines.

40. Parliamentarians bore a special responsibility in tackling the challenges and had to demand clear rules in national legislation on sustainable urban development and ensure that increased funding was made available, taking account of the needs of slum-dwellers and working in cooperation with them to ensure that communities maintained ownership and identification with their neighbourhoods. Global Parliamentarians on Habitat aimed to achieve improvements through its parliamentary network and in cooperation with the public, Governments, non-governmental organizations, urban planners and the private sector. He called for a global comparison of legislation for sustainable urban development as a basis for discussions at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and as a challenge for UN-Habitat.

41. Ms. Patel, in her presentation, said that Shack/Slum Dwellers International represented member-based organizations in more than 30 countries. Its members were poor people who wanted to be partners with city and national authorities in the effort to tackle the problems of urbanization rather than mere recipients of development aid. The organization believed that it was crucial to recognize that no existing planning instruments, resources or strategies were adequate to deal with the magnitude of urban woes arising from existing levels of informal settlements in cities. Plans had to be made to cater for the increase in population growth and urban migration that would take place over the coming 30–40 years. The solutions were not yet known and could only be found through strategic partnerships.

42. She recalled that the Executive Director had enjoined the Governing Council to keep strategies simple and to focus on solutions for streets and public spaces. Shack/Slum Dwellers International proposed that a serious partnership between cities and slum-dwellers should be the first step, as formalizing informality was not the solution. She noted that land was political; therefore, security of tenure and the right to livelihoods had to be designed into the vision of cities of the future.

43. Environmental issues, she continued, added additional pressure. It was never known with any degree of certainty where the next disaster would strike, but research had found examples, such as in Brazil, of strong partnerships and dialogue with the poor resulting in good policy choices on matters of access and space, both critical for disaster management. She called for the use of the potential of urban land to help attain the Millennium Development Goals, most elements of which could find focus in cities. Membership-based organizations that gave the poor standing could be the platform on which to organize solutions based on negotiation and compromise. She urged politicians and parliamentarians to treat the poor as partners.

44. Mr. Priemus gave a presentation on expanding equitable access to housing, which, he said, lay at the core of housing policies and was related to such issues as land policy, transport provision, urban planning and use of public space. A well-functioning housing sector had the potential to make a major contribution to sustainable urban development, but housing policies and markets had generally failed in both developing and developed countries. A key factor in that failure was the poor integration into housing policy of social housing, which was often small, declining, and treated differently from the rest of the housing sector. A system designed for the poor was poor by design, with negative outcomes including increased stigma, reduced incentives for investment and distorted property prices.

45. One housing policy instrument with a positive record was the provision of housing allowances or housing vouchers, which had the capacity to target low-income families accurately. The instrument provided support on the demand side and did not distort the market as much as did property subsidies, and thereby provided a more level playing field for housing providers and led to greater efficiency in housing provision. Housing allowances were an essential component of long-term movement towards a neutral housing policy that did not discriminate between tenants and owner-occupiers. They allowed the market to adopt market prices while focusing policy on people, with the provision of income-related vouchers as an entitlement for households with modest incomes, and were in line with the recognition by the United Nations of the right to adequate housing. They reduced stigma, increased incentives for investment, made land policy more transparent and led to greater stability of house prices.

46. He then considered the question of whether social housing providers were needed within a market system. Social housing associations offered benefits that responded to the priorities of households with modest incomes. They offered security during times of economic decline; they did not engage in negative risk selection; and they reinvested any surpluses in providing further housing. In conclusion, he said that public policy should be tenure-neutral within a demand-side, people-based system in which non-profit housing associations existed alongside commercial investors. Housing was not only important in itself, but also was the key to sustainable urban development.

C. Discussion

47. In the ensuing discussion, one representative underscored the exciting opportunity presented by recent scientific evidence on the linkages between equality and a wide variety of social indicators demonstrating the universal benefit of equality for all members of society. In the long term, policymakers must take fully into account that equality was beneficial for all; he called for a fundamental re-evaluation of sustainable urbanization in the light of that finding. He stressed that land was a key determinant of economic opportunity, especially for women. It was crucial, therefore, that equitable planning should include a gender perspective. In addition, planning must be inclusive of all stakeholders; the knowledge of slum-dwellers was of critical significance in sustainable urbanization as a result of their broad experience of the challenges of living in unplanned settlements.

48. Another representative urged Governments to develop and implement policies to expand access to land and security of tenure in an inclusive and equitable manner. Land was a source of production, sustenance and human dignity and contributed to physical and economic well-being. Given the existing challenges, transparency and good governance in land administration were of fundamental importance. Security of tenure relied on many forms of tenure other than individual freehold. He voiced support for a continuum of land rights, including documented and undocumented rights for formal and informal and legal and extralegal groups. He expressed satisfaction with the work of UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network on gender criteria and the Social Tenure Domain Model. He called for security of tenure for all through the adoption of intermediate forms of tenure and alternative forms of land administration and management, among other things.

49. Several representatives advocated the authoritative participation of all stakeholders, including Habitat Agenda partners, human settlements experts, women and young people, in the governance of UN-Habitat. One representative, speaking on behalf of Habitat Agenda partners, proposed the constitution of a platform in that regard to form an integral part of the organization's governance structure. He welcomed the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, phase III, set out in document HSP/GC/23/INF/7, and an option elaborated therein, which represented an emerging hybrid system of governance at the transnational level. He drew attention to a draft resolution on that issue and urged member States to ensure that UN-Habitat partners were included and given a strong voice in UN-Habitat as the global authority for sustainable urban development.

50. One representative, noting the high proportion of young people making up the world's population, almost 85 per cent of whom were located in developing countries, stressed the importance of the effective engagement of young people as key stakeholders in policy development and implementation processes. She called for equitable access to housing for young people, green building practices, socially inclusive development processes and affordable finance mechanisms. She urged young people to advocate fresh approaches to housing and infrastructure in the light of climate change and human-caused natural disasters and said that the green economy concept could capitalize on the strengths of young people.

51. Another representative highlighted the need for the social and economic empowerment of women to facilitate their access to and control of land. Existing differences in the social and economic well-being of women stemmed in part from the failure to enforce human rights legislation related to

women, their scant access to financial and credit institutions and their lack of participation in decision-making regarding access to and control of land. She called upon UN-Habitat and Governments to find ways to make laws work for women, to ensure the inclusion of women in decision-making at all levels and to strengthen existing community and grass-roots women's innovation.

52. One representative, reiterating the importance of equitable access to land, said that the provision of housing, basic services and infrastructure were key areas in which practical differences could be made. She welcomed the Executive Director's call for a positive approach to cities, saying that sustainable urbanization was key to social progress, economic development and poverty reduction and that the current dialogue should be seen in the context of the multitude of challenges requiring global collective action. She called upon member States and partners to acknowledge the urgency of tackling the urban agenda and the need to work with all partners. Lack of action would have devastating consequences for the whole world, she said, welcoming proposals to formalize the participation of partners in the governance structure of UN-Habitat.

53. One representative sought clarification on optimal means of housing and basic services provision to the population and on the roles of stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, therein.

54. Another representative noted the connection between conflicts and human settlement crises, especially as they affected women's health and child mortality. He stressed the importance of the role of the United Nations in the settlement of disputes and highlighted Kenya's positive role in Southern Sudan. He welcomed dialogue with fellow parliamentarians and urged them to develop legislation on human rights and equitable distribution of land and to allocate adequate budget for housing.

55. One representative reiterated the importance of disaster risk reduction, without which sustainable development was futile for those at risk. He noted with appreciation the assistance provided to Japan in the wake of the recent earthquake and tsunami that had afflicted that country.

56. Another representative said that rural development was crucial for many countries as a means of achieving food security and promoting the tourism industry. Her country had earmarked considerable sums for slum upgrading through the construction of low-income housing in eight municipalities. Successful slum upgrading, she said, required that poor people should be at the heart of decision-making.

57. One representative underscored the importance of reviewing national land tenure systems when planning for land and housing to deal effectively with the fragmentation and mushrooming of slums. She suggested that UN-Habitat should assist in establishing a fund to support the resettlement of the needy.

58. Another representative said that the housing problem had to be approached from three interlinked levels along the demand and supply chain for land and housing. At the individual level, persons who could not afford housing needed support from the State. The State, for its part, needed to provide land or subsidize the cost of housing for those who could not afford it. The State's resources and efforts were often insufficient, however, and the international community and donors therefore had to step in. If the demands for basic housing could not be met in that way, slums would result, and both the State and international community would be faced with the need for costly remediation. He suggested that a fund should be established at the international level to help States meet the demand for housing for the poor.

59. Responding to the comments from the floor, one panellist noted the recurring theme of democratization of housing. In his view, housing was linked to supply and demand and both the State and public and local authorities had an important role to play therein. He outlined national-level approaches to find financial solutions such as indirect aid in the form of low rents, tax exemptions and bank guarantees, among others. He also emphasized that building programmes were dependent on local conditions and required the mobilization of private institutions in their implementation. A cross-cutting approach involving all sectors was needed, and exploiting the synergies between the sectors was key.

60. Another panellist also voiced support for the idea that it was necessary to work together more than hitherto, saying that urbanization should be the focus of various levels of government. One panellist emphasized the principle that everyone benefited from equality, particularly in the urban context, and said that it was therefore essential for all sectors, including local authorities and civil society, to negotiate on an equal platform with the poor, women and young people, using new language and strategies to achieve agreed goals. One panellist expressed agreement that there was a need for new housing policies to achieve urban sustainability, taking account of human rights while

also engaging the creativity of public-private partnerships. It was also important to consider the ecological aspect of housing and its contribution to energy sustainability. He stressed too that infrastructure development was costly, and that it was always necessary to harmonize policies with financing.

IV. Session 2: Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to basic services and infrastructure

A. Opening remarks

61. Mr. Trepelkov opened the afternoon session saying that equitable access to basic services and infrastructure were critical for sustainable urbanization. Globally, population growth and the rapid pace of urbanization had outpaced the provision of basic services such as water supply and sanitation. Inadequate transport systems and lack of access to energy supply also had negative impacts on livelihoods and quality of life, particularly for the urban poor. The consequences of climate change, including more severe and unpredictable droughts and floods, had compounded those difficulties and had added to the challenge of planning and managing infrastructure.

62. Nevertheless, solutions could be found that resulted both in improved services and amenities and in environmentally sustainable (or “green”) growth. For example, improving water supply and sanitation could lead to job creation, improved health and reduced time spent collecting water, resulting in increased incomes and better education, especially for girls. For solutions to be sustainable and at scale, proactive planning was vital, together with governance frameworks to ensure that planning achieved its goals and that results were sustained. In conclusion, he said that it was important for key messages to be developed during the current session of the Governing Council to take forward to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. He expressed the hope that the current dialogue would assist in that regard.

B. Panellist presentations

63. Mr. Karega gave a presentation on energy supply and its relevance to human settlements. He said that energy was critical for social and economic transformation and for development with dignity, yet had received little attention in recent decades as a key component of poverty reduction strategies, which had often accorded greater priority to such issues as education, access to water supply, health and food. Energy, however, was a cross-cutting issue that enabled all those sectors to function. Shortages in energy provision were alarming; in sub-Saharan Africa, for example, over 600 million people lacked access to modern energy, depending instead on biomass for cooking and heating and kerosene and candles for light. The negative impacts of that reality included deforestation, indoor air pollution and contribution to climate change. The urban poor typically spent over 20 per cent of their income on energy, reducing their effective income in other areas and hampering efforts to improve their quality of life.

64. The Secretary-General had called upon the global community to achieve universal access to modern energy services by 2030. In addition, the General Assembly, by its resolution 65/151 of 20 December 2010, had designated 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The supply of energy needed to take advantage of a range of energy sources, tapping wherever possible into green opportunities and reducing the average costs of generation and supply. Energy should not be considered a luxury for the poor, but a basic right to widen the life options available and to improve health and well-being. In conclusion, he said that much higher priority needed to be accorded to energy supply, and greater recognition given to its capacity to promote proper development for the urban poor.

65. In her presentation, observing that water gave life and sanitation dignity, Ms. Wijaysinghe highlighted the declining provision of both in urban areas, on account of the increased demand resulting from rapid urban growth. The impacts were particularly acute for the informal sector. She stressed the urgent need to increase services, especially in urban areas, to prevent the outbreak of diseases and to assist in fostering economic development. That could be achieved by adopting new approaches through innovative planning and decentralization with due consideration to growth forecasts for urban centres. Given that the responsibility for service delivery rested with local authorities and that capacities, especially in small towns, were often limited, she called for the promotion of capacity-building for local authorities, the development of new legislation and its enforcement so as to ensure increased transparency in maintaining citizen’s rights to the services. That could be achieved through an increased focus on partnerships between local authorities, community-based organizations and communities.

66. She also advocated the promotion of urban economies through green growth, which in itself created jobs, such as in the plumbing and construction sectors. Other opportunities included the need for improved management of wastewater and solid waste recycling. That could contribute to a reduction of the ecological footprints of urban areas and the current competition between the built and natural environments, which was unsustainable. In conclusion, she said that UN-Habitat served as a link between the various stakeholders in service provision and urged the organization to extend and replicate some of its successful programmes to other locations based on realities and experiences on the ground.

67. In his presentation, Mr. Masunda spoke of the importance of public services and the key role of local authorities in providing them. The provision of public services helped to reduce inequalities and foster social cohesion, strengthen the economy of the city and create a sense of belonging among its citizens. Good, strong local governance was needed for the provision of basic services and local authorities required a strong public service ethos and accountability. Central Governments should develop enabling legislation to clarify the roles of local authorities and strengthen their capacities and responsibilities. Local authorities were increasingly considered best placed to define policies on basic services and to deliver on the Millennium Development Goals through the provision of energy, water, sanitation, waste management, transport, education, health and public safety. It was not possible to do so without appropriate funding, however, and local authorities should have the ability to generate their own revenue by leveraging the assets that were under the control of cities to provide services, rather than relying on central government funding.

68. Mr. Quéré, in his presentation, expressed support for the UN-Habitat guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities. The former would tackle local governance at the political and technical levels, which would assist private service providers in delivering services corresponding to the population's needs and in the framework of agreements with local and national authorities in a transparent and effective way. The latter would be a crucial element in promoting governance at all levels.

69. He stressed several aspects that were particularly important for the contribution of the private sector: clarification of the roles of the various stakeholders; construction of long-term partnerships; sustainable financing of pro-poor policies; and ensuring environmental sustainability. There was a need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to urban problems. He also stressed the willingness of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development to support and contribute to the implementation of the two sets of guidelines, noting that it was already participating in the World Urban Campaign and working through the Urban Infrastructure Initiative to ensure the relevance and long-lasting nature of the various urban projects developed.

C. Discussion

70. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed support for the panellists' emphasis on the need for inclusive thinking in all areas of sustainable urban development. He drew attention to a forthcoming conference with the theme "The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus – Water Resources in the Green Economy" to be held in Bonn, Germany, in November 2011, as a contribution to discussions on the green economy in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Participants at the Bonn conference would focus on the interdependence of water, energy and food security and the awareness that sustainable economic development was dependent on the ecologically sound growth of core sectors, particularly water.

71. The representative of the Asian Development Bank emphasized the unprecedented scale of urbanization in Asia and its environmental impact. Suggesting that access to infrastructure and basic services was the most direct way of tackling poverty, she noted that the Bank was working with countries to build inclusive, green cities. Cities, she said, were increasingly able to leverage funds from the private sector rather than depend on government grants.

72. Several representatives gave examples of steps taken in their countries to improve basic services. One described energy access in urban settings in his country and measures taken to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase the use of sustainable sources such as geothermal, solar and wind power. Another said that the upgrading of basic infrastructures had been increased in recent years with the gains from debt relief and were being complemented by community-based urban development initiatives. One spoke of the need to provide resources for conversion to a green economy and environmentally sound urban standards, and looked to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to reinforce the polluter pays principle.

73. Several representatives acknowledged the work of UN-Habitat, with one saying that it merited wider recognition and further development in line with the principles of the “one United Nations” initiative. One representative laid particular emphasis on the need to widen the discussion to the three pillars of sustainable development and emphasized the need for integrated urban planning as a key element of sustainable urban development, highlighting the sustainable use of energy, energy efficiency in both old buildings and new construction, and greening the work of the construction sector as means of contributing to the green economy.

74. Two representatives advocated the idea of a compact city with integrated land use and transportation solutions as a way of reducing the segregation of areas and elements of the city. Several representatives stressed the challenges arising from rapid urban growth along with those posed by climate change.

75. One representative suggested that in many parts of the world the relationships between the various spheres of government left much to be desired; Governments were top-down and not inclusive, resulting in the exclusion of citizens and affecting the delivery of services. He said that many countries’ constitutions failed to recognize local governments, that resources were limited and that Governments would do well to examine which level could best deliver what at the most economical cost. United Nations bodies should recognize the need to work with all levels of government and civil society, especially as the problem affected many countries, whether developed or developing.

76. Several representatives gave details of initiatives in their countries, such as subsidies and exemptions, particularly with regard to the provision of services to the poor. One commented on the need to foster self-help among populations and within countries by linking up with those having new technologies, such as wind or solar applications.

77. In their responses, the panellists welcomed the representatives’ comments and gave further detail on relevant activities in their countries. One welcomed the greening efforts described by representatives, particularly those to regulate charcoal consumption for energy use. He suggested that there was a need for all stakeholders to play a role to facilitate their understanding of and investment in energy, so as to improve the population’s quality of life in the future.

78. Another panellist gave examples of challenges faced in her country in terms of water supply, noting that her Government was investigating decentralization and inclusive approaches with a view to resolving those problems. Capacity-building for local authorities was also important. In that regard, support in terms of knowledge and, in some cases, financial assistance from relevant international organizations to provide better water and sanitation services, would be welcome.

79. One panellist pointed out that local authorities did not operate in a vacuum, as their work had to form part of the larger policy framework laid down by relevant ministries. In addition, the private sector and community-based organizations had key roles to play, and cooperative arrangements should therefore be promoted.

80. Another panellist, while calling for a collective, integrated approach to the interconnected issues facing the urban sector, suggested that there was a need to move from the conceptual level to action and to involve all stakeholders, with public authorities taking the lead role. If action was not taken, it would be impossible for the quality of life of urban-dwellers to be improved and the economic competitiveness of cities boosted.

D. Closing remarks

81. In her closing remarks, Ms. Argilagos highlighted messages from the dialogue and gave examples of action in the United States being undertaken in relevant areas to ensure that investments and activities were aligned in support of sustainability. She expressed the view that it was impossible for cities to be viable in the long term if they were not both sustainable and inclusive. She also emphasized the importance of providing maximum connectivity and causing the least possible environmental degradation by integrating housing, land use, transportation and economic development.

V. Rapporteur’s summaries of the sessions and the key messages for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

82. The rapporteur for the dialogue summarized the two dialogue sessions and the key messages emerging from them for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. A written version of her summary follows.

83. During the morning session, high-level presenters, panellists and speakers from the floor raised a number of issues and made many suggestions. The following captures some of the key messages of the discussions:

(a) The Millennium Development Goals slum target has been achieved ahead of time. The proliferation of slums, however, continues to challenge South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Given current trends, slum upgrading and slum prevention strategies are crucial to dealing with fast-growing slum phenomena and to achieving sustainable urban development. The challenges and opportunities of rapid urban growth need to be fully integrated into the current sustainable development debate, including the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

(b) One of the instruments to tackle the challenges posed by slums is improved urban planning. The new approach to urban planning calls for it to be proactive and incremental, to emphasize density and to be implemented at scale;

(c) To improve access to land and tenure security, protection of land rights should emphasize not only individual rights but also social rights, shared rights, group rights and other rights such as those of slum-dwellers;

(d) Sustainable housing and building offers opportunities for job creation, eradicating poverty and catalysing economic growth. It can be a vehicle for low-carbon development and energy efficiency. Housing can therefore contribute to all three dimensions of sustainable urban development;

(e) Land and housing issues affect social groups in various ways. In many cultures and legal systems, women do not enjoy equitable rights to land and housing. It is therefore vitally important to understand that land and housing policies are effective only to the extent that they recognize and promote rights of the poor and vulnerable groups, including young people and women. The key message here is that equality benefits all;

(f) Cities contribute significantly to climate change and suffer from its adverse impacts. Many large cities are located in coastal areas and along rivers, which are highly exposed to the impacts of climate change. Flooding and landslides attributable to climate change can be avoided through better urban land management.

84. From the afternoon session, the following key messages emerged:

(a) Equitable access to basic services is vital for sustainable urbanization. The inclusiveness with which such services are planned and provided will determine the viability and environmental sustainability of urban areas. Equitable access to services requires investment but can lead to clean and green growth through the creation of jobs in diverse areas, particularly for the poor. Cities need to realize this potential and become more competitive and attract business and commerce;

(b) The lack of access to energy is a key cause of poverty. This has not been adequately recognized. Consumption of fossil-fuel-based energy is a key contributor to greenhouse-gas emissions and hence climate change. Cities should concentrate on energy-efficiency gains through more energy-efficient urban forms and energy efficiency in buildings. Decentralized energy generation, combining the use of renewable energy sources integrated into smart energy grids, should be explored. Green options should be promoted and where this is not feasible the focus should be on mitigation. Promoting energy security for the poor is a means to fast-track development;

(c) Public transport and other sustainable modes of transport should be supported; unsustainable modes of transport should be discouraged. Demand for transport should be reduced through better planning. Efforts should be made to ensure that transport systems are safe, available and affordable for the poor;

(d) Global water resources are under heavy pressure. Efforts should be made to promote universal and affordable access, while reducing water demand and wastage. Demand for pumping should be reduced to save energy. Integrated water resources management frameworks should be adopted. Wastewater should be used and uncontaminated water returned to the environment. As part of a five-year drive, the provision of environmental sanitation should be accelerated to protect citizens' health and dignity and to maintain the city as a centre for economic and social development. Water and sanitation programmes should be promoted for cities, leveraging investments from financing institutions;

(e) The pathways to sustainable urbanization and green growth are mutually reinforcing. Construction and retrofitting infrastructure leading to energy and water efficiency, or recovering resources from waste, can create green jobs and a high social rate of return. Planning and installing new infrastructure should be done to maximize green gains, including jobs. New forms of energy

generation focusing on renewable sources, including waste to energy sources, can create jobs. Efficient transport systems and affordable public transport can lead to more productivity, including on green jobs. Partnerships between local authorities, cities and the private sector present many opportunities. The polluter pays principle should be adopted globally and urban environment standards promoted;

(f) Collaboration between various spheres of government, strengthening regulatory frameworks and collaboration with the private sector and civil society are critical in realizing these priorities.

ADVANCE

Annex IV

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Introduction

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 11 April 2011, the Governing Council agreed to establish a committee of the whole to consider agenda items 5, 7 and 8.
2. The Committee of the Whole was chaired by Mr. Liu Guangyuan (China), one of the three vice-presidents of the Governing Council and, in his absence, Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation), a fellow vice-president.

I. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters (agenda item 5)

3. The Committee took up the agenda item at its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 11 April 2011. The Committee agreed to organize its work by entrusting consideration of the draft resolutions set out in document HSP/GC/23/3/Add.1 to the drafting committee that had been established by the Governing Council.
4. It also agreed to take up the items entrusted to it in the following order: activities of UN-Habitat (HSP/GC/23/2), report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its work during the intersessional period (HSP/GC/23/3), cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.7), joint progress report of the executive directors of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme on activities in the field of the urban environment over the reporting period 2009–2010 (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.6), coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.5), the World Urban Forum (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.2 and Add.3), the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4) and review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1).
5. Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, speaking as a representative of the secretariat, presented the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UN-Habitat, as set out in documents HSP/GC/23/2 and Add.1–7.

A. Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

6. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UN-Habitat, as set out in document HSP/GC/23/2. She explained that the report summarized activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in response to the resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session. It was complemented by other reports that provided more detailed and additional information on activities undertaken in response to specific resolutions. She also highlighted the subjects covered by those reports and the documents in which they were discussed.
7. The Committee took note of the report. It also endorsed various draft resolutions related to the subject and agreed that they should be transmitted to the President for submission to the Governing Council meeting in plenary session.

B. Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period

8. Ms. Yvonne Khamati-Kilonzo, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, drew attention to the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in document HSP/GC/23/3, which gave a summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2009 and 2010, together with the one meeting that had already taken place in 2011 in preparation for the current session.
9. The Committee took note of the report.

C. Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations

10. The representative of the secretariat, drawing attention to the report on cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, as set out in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.7, affirmed that cooperation had been extended, relationships with major partners consolidated and partnerships with multilateral and bilateral organizations, civil society groups, professional bodies and research and training institutions developed.

11. The Committee took note of the report.

D. Joint progress report of the executive directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme on activities in the field of the urban environment over the reporting period 2009–2010

12. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP, as set out in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.6, affirming that, as demonstrated in that report, cooperation between the two organizations had been further extended and institutionalized. The current joint workplan was being implemented under the overall theme of cities and climate change. It included activities on the documenting of urban greenhouse-gas emissions, the assessment of urban vulnerability to climate change impacts, the development of innovative adaptation mechanisms, and mitigation efforts at the city level, particularly in the building and transport sectors.

13. The Committee took note of the report.

E. Coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

14. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the document on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.5).

15. The Committee endorsed a draft resolution on the subject and agreed that it should be transmitted to the President for submission to the Governing Council meeting in plenary session.

F. Fifth session of the World Urban Forum and lessons learned from previous sessions of the Forum

16. Drawing attention to the report of the Executive Director on the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, set out in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.2, the representative of the secretariat said that the fifth session of the Forum had been a great success. She also drew attention to the lessons learned from previous sessions of the Forum, as discussed in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.3.

17. The representative of Brazil expressed her Government's honour at having hosted the fifth session of the Forum and the hope that its contribution would be taken into account in the future work of UN-Habitat.

18. The Committee endorsed a draft resolution on the subject and agreed that it should be transmitted to the President for submission to the Governing Council meeting in plenary session.

G. Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development

19. Drawing attention to the report on a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4), the representative of the secretariat said that it had been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 64/207 of 21 December 2009 and highlighted a number of developments that made it necessary to convene a third conference, potentially in 2016.

20. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives voiced support for the holding of a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development in 2016, viewing such a conference as an opportunity to assess the achievements of the previous two conferences, to reflect on progress made in urban development and to tackle the challenges that such development posed. One

representative requested that the mandate of the conference should not be too detailed or specific and should be seen as a starting point for the evaluation and assessment of the achievements of the Habitat Agenda, among other things. He also proposed that the conference should be organized in conjunction with the World Urban Forum. Other representatives suggested that the Committee of the Whole should endorse, rather than take note of, the report to lend more weight to it at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

21. The Committee endorsed a draft resolution on the subject and agreed that it should be transmitted to the President for submission to the Governing Council meeting in plenary session.

H. Review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

22. Drawing attention to the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as discussed in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1, the representative of the secretariat said that the Secretariat and the Committee of Permanent Representatives had worked together in a constructive and collegial partnership to produce two specific outputs. The first was a series of measures characterized as “quick wins” and “medium/long-term interventions”, which had been formally adopted by the Committee and were at various stages of implementation. The responsibility to implement them lay with the Executive Director and the Committee, respectively. The second was the elaboration of options by the joint Secretariat/Committee implementation team for more fundamental, structural reforms for the information of the Governing Council. The findings were set out in document HSP/GC/23/INF/7, which proposed four options for potential changes in the governance structure.

23. The Committee endorsed a draft resolution on the subject and agreed that it should be transmitted to the President for submission to the Governing Council meeting in plenary session.

I. Response to the policy statement by the Executive Director

24. The representative of the secretariat invited general comments on the Executive Director’s policy statement, which had been delivered during the morning plenary session of the Governing Council.

25. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives expressed appreciation for the policy statement and welcomed the topics considered therein; they looked forward to further discussion on strengthening the housing development sector, tackling the challenges of demographic trends and climate change and examining aspects of governance and management in the context of sustainable urban development. One representative highlighted the importance of agriculture and food security in the light of rapid urbanization and growth of cities and said that the issue should be considered further. Another welcomed the clarity and structure of the policy statement, describing it as a fresh and new approach that considered the problems of urban development in an intelligent way accessible to the layperson and set out achievable goals and objectives. He said that the report reflected a new way of working in UN-Habitat and of communicating and dealing with issues.

26. The Deputy Executive Director thanked the representatives for their constructive comments and took note of the importance of integrating the issue of agriculture and food security into future deliberations.

II. 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 (agenda item 7)

27. The Committee took up the agenda item at its 2nd meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 12 April 2011.

A. Proposed work programme and budget for the biennium 2012–2013

28. The Executive Director introduced the proposed work programme and budget for the biennium 2012–2013 set out in document HSP/GC/23/5 and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions set out in document HSP/GC/23/5/Add.1. He explained that the work programme and budget had been prepared in close collaboration with, and endorsed by, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and had been recommended for Governing Council approval by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in New York. The budget had

been developed along the six cross-cutting focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and prioritized in line with Governing Council resolution 22/7 of 3 April 2009. Work was under way to streamline UN-Habitat, increasing productivity at headquarters to enhance flexibility, adaptability and accountability. He underscored the need to strengthen programmes and projects and to be flexible in responding to financial constraints. He explained the salient points relating to executive direction and management and each of the four subprogrammes: shelter and sustainable urban settlements development; monitoring the Habitat Agenda; regional and technical cooperation; and human settlements financing.

29. He stressed that, while financing from technical cooperation and bilateral agreements was increasing, funding of the Foundation was decreasing. In the meantime the Programme's overall resource requirements for the biennium were projected at \$393.2 million, which represented a 10 per cent increase over the previous biennium. The organization would therefore strive to enhance productivity and efficiency at headquarters to do more with less. He reiterated the crucial role that Governments continued to play in the success of UN-Habitat work and the effective delivery of its mandate.

30. One representative expressed appreciation for the work and efforts of the secretariat and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing the work programme and budget and satisfaction at the submission of differentiated budget scenarios based on various income alternatives. He made a number of key suggestions, including that the Executive Director should consider a new organizational structure to achieve better alignment with the focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan; that a unified planning and reporting system for decision-making, resource mobilization and reporting to all donors should be established to avoid expensive overlapping systems; that specific criteria and a process for the allocation of scarce resources among competing priorities should be established; that strategic planning, performance monitoring and reporting should be coordinated by a central strategic management section at the highest level of the organization and directed and supported by the Executive Director; that an independent evaluation body should be established to undertake an evaluation of the work programme for presentation to the Governing Council and whose recommendations would be submitted to the Governing Council; that the gender mainstreaming unit should be relocated to the Office of the Executive Director; and that the focus of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan should be diverted from policy and technical administrative reform to focus on staff composition, competency and commitment at all levels.

31. Another representative welcomed the Executive Director's report, acknowledging the work of the secretariat in formulating a realistic and modest budget taking into account the particular importance of field projects to the organization's future work.

32. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the work programme and budget document as presented, which was the product of intense discussions between the secretariat and member States. She commended the Executive Director for having shaped the work programme according to his new priorities so soon after assuming his post at UN-Habitat. The new priorities were, she said, highly relevant to the urban agenda and the medium-term strategic and institutional plan. She welcomed the Executive Director's initiative to conduct an organizational review and encouraged him to provide updates on progress in that regard to member States through the Committee of Permanent Representatives. She expressed satisfaction with the prioritization of activities, which would be helpful in the event of an income shortfall and subsequent reallocations, and with the Executive Director's awareness of the need to respond to the organization's new economic realities. In closing, she said that she looked forward to being updated on progress made in the realignment of the organizational structure with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan. The Executive Director thanked the representatives for their comments, which were in line with changes under way within UN-Habitat, and expressed satisfaction that the secretariat and member States shared a common vision for the organization's future.

33. In response to a request for clarification regarding a special allocation of \$3.9 million to cater for the budgetary implications of the review of the organization's structure, the Executive Director said that the amount would be used in the event that the review resulted in the reorganization of UN-Habitat. He also explained that were a shortfall in income to be experienced the special allocation would be decreased by the same proportion as would the allocations for other activities. There were currently 258 Professional staff members working on 400 projects; it was important to clarify the relationship between projects and Professional staff members, which was likely to require some restructuring. It was to be hoped that the full amount of the special allocation would not be required.

34. Subsequently, the Committee endorsed a draft resolution on the subject and agreed that it should be transmitted to the President for submission to the Governing Council meeting in plenary session.

B. Reports on progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 and on the midterm review of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan

35. The representative of the secretariat introduced the reports on progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 (HSP/GC/23/5/Add.2) and on the midterm review of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan (HSP/GC/23/5/Add.3). She said that the first report was based on eight progress reports discussed and approved by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and evaluations conducted by independent consultants over the period 2008–2010. The report revealed significant achievements in implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and marked improvement in internal management processes meeting the three objectives set in 2007: better focusing of UN-Habitat activities, improved efficiency, and better integration of operational and normative activities. Collaboration between divisions had been tightened to deliver organization-wide results in areas such as improved access to land, housing, security of tenure and slum improvement in 32 countries. Efforts to achieve further improvements would continue.

36. Regarding the mid-term review of the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, the representative said that the findings, lessons learned and recommendations of the review had been discussed with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and that an action plan to implement accepted recommendations was being implemented. Efforts to achieve further improvements would continue.

37. The Committee took note of the reports.

C. Evaluation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme

38. The representative of the secretariat introduced the evaluation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme (HSP/GC/23/5/Add.4). She suggested that in the current financial climate UN-Habitat could not be a lender and therefore needed to concentrate on establishing partnerships with financial institutions to strengthen the comparative advantages of its normative function in the arena of urban economy, particularly in respect of job creation and leveraging financing for urban upgrading and housing for the poor. Such partnerships could also lead to future lending, loan guarantees and financial advisory services. Based on the evaluation, she requested the Governing Council to consider transferring the experimental reimbursable seeding operations portfolio and the technical management of the Slum Upgrading Facility to appropriate partners.

39. Two representatives expressed agreement with the proposals set out in the documents and reflected in the relevant draft resolution. The experimental reimbursable seeding operations clearly showed that the upgrading of slum infrastructure, housing and services required greater attention. They agreed with the proposal to move direct lending operations to an external partner and stressed that, while there was a need to identify the most appropriate institution, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, it should not result in a loss of UN-Habitat normative involvement.

40. The Committee took note of the evaluation.

D. Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development

41. The representative of the secretariat introduced the documentation on the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development (HSP/GC/23/5/Add.5), recalling that the fund had been established at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council with financing from Norway. The evaluation in the report suggested narrowing the number of participant countries and concentrating on projects that fell within the UN-Habitat focus areas. It further recommended greater involvement by UN-Habitat programme managers and regional offices to streamline management, disbursement and monitoring.

42. One representative welcomed the report and expressed support for its recommendations.

43. The Committee endorsed a draft resolution on the subject and agreed that it should be transmitted to the President for submission to the Governing Council meeting in plenary session.

E. Progress in the implementation of the gender equality action plan

44. The representative of the secretariat introduced the documentation on progress in the implementation of the gender equality action plan (HSP/GC/23/5/Add.6), highlighting a number of specific information, capacity-building, demonstration and financing activities aimed at implementing the action plan in several important areas: advocacy and monitoring gender equality in cities; urban planning, governance and management; land and housing; access to environmentally sound urban services; financing for human settlements development; and strengthening of gender mainstreaming. She concluded by proposing that implementation and monitoring of the gender equality action plan should be aligned with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan framework and that institutional arrangements for gender mainstreaming should be improved.

45. One representative expressed support for the views stated in the report, noting that a resolution on gender issues had been submitted. Another said that there was a need for gender equality performance indicators that could be applied by local authorities.

46. The Committee endorsed a draft resolution on the subject and agreed also that it should be transmitted to the President for submission to the Governing Council meeting in plenary session.

III. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 8)

47. The Committee took up the item at its 3rd meeting, on the morning of Thursday, 14 April 2011. The representative of the secretariat outlined the proposed agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council, to be held in 2013, as set out in document HSP/GC/23/6. The Secretary to the Governing Council explained that the dates had yet to be finalized, as the secretariat was awaiting confirmation of meetings of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Environment Programme scheduled for 2013. It was hoped that the dates would be available in time for consideration by the Governing Council at its final plenary meeting.

48. In response to a request by one representative to avoid scheduling the session in April 2013, given that that month was a festive period in his country, the representative of the secretariat took note of the request, but stressed that, in a body comprising member States from all over the world, there was bound to be some conflict of dates.

49. The Committee endorsed the provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session for adoption by the Governing Council.