Draft Resolution on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure

The Governing Council,

Recalling the goal contained in the United National Millennium Declaration\(^1\) of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”)\(^2\) to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,\(^3\) which calls upon Member States of the United Nations to, inter alia, recognize 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,

Taking note of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, in particular paragraph 77 (k), that highlights the need to work, beyond current targets, towards cities without slums through reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum dwellers, with adequate support of the international community, prioritizing among other things equal access to adequate shelter,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/236, which outlines the three objectives of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20), that is: (i) To secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, (ii) To assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and (iii) To address new and emerging challenges, and further specifies two themes for the Conference, that is (i) Green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction and (ii) Institutional framework for sustainable development,\(^4\)

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

Acknowledging the Bamako Declaration and Action Plan of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) on ‘Land in the context of sustainable urbanization’, adopted in Bamako, Mali, on 26 November 2010,

Recognizing the Solo Declaration and Implementation Plan of the Third Asian Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) on ‘Empowering Communities for Sustainable Urbanisation’, adopted in Solo, Indonesia, on the 24 June 2010,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda, in particular paragraphs 65 and 67, which encourages the formulation and periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies, with a view

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\(^1\) See General Assembly Resolution 55/2.
\(^3\) See General Assembly Resolution 61/1.
\(^4\) General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/236.
to creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems, as the cornerstone for the provision of shelter for all,

*Also recalling* the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements\(^5\), in particular paragraph 75 of the Habitat Agenda, 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,

*Further recalling* General Assembly Resolution A/RES/59/239 of 22 December 2004 on the Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) which encourages Governments to support the Global Campaigns for Secure Tenure and Urban Governance, as important tools for promoting the administration of land and property rights,

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 24 November 2010, in particular paragraph 4, which invites the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to consider appropriate global and national strategies and frameworks for future work, for the achievement of 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 the world’s slum-dwellers,

*Emphasizing that* sustainable urban development is essential for the planet and that Governments need to formulate appropriate policies and make deliberate interventions to create an enabling environment for the delivery of land, housing, basic services and infrastructure,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director and of the deliberation on the theme of 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”;

2. *Calls upon* Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners to:

   (a) Identify and propose latest ideas and approaches on sustainable urban development as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in 2012, with a particular focus on (i) green economy in the context of sustainable urban development and urban poverty eradication; and on (ii) institutional framework for sustainable urban development in the context of sustainable development;

   (b) Develop strategic responses to the problems of sustainable urban development, building on the recommendations of the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the 2005 World Summit outcome, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcome of the high level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly;

   (c) Mobilize the commitment of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners at the international, national and local levels to expand access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, within an integrated urban governance and sustainable urban development framework;

3. *Also calls upon* Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners, with regard to urban planning, mobility and climate change issues, to:

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(a) Seriously consider increasing urban density through intensification of land use, as part of improved urban planning, so as to reduce infrastructure investment costs, the ecological footprint of urban centres, demand for transport and energy use;

(b) Promote public transport and mass transit systems, non-motorized transport and provision of space for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as improvements in road systems;

(c) Request international agencies to facilitate the access of cities to climate change mitigation and adaptation financing;

4. Further **calls upon** Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners, with regard to increasing access to land, housing and infrastructure issues, to:

   (a) Reform regulatory and institutional frameworks, codes, norms, laws and standards and develop and implement enabling policies, regulations and strategies facilitating access to a wide range of affordable, adequate, safe and environmentally-sound land, housing, basic services and infrastructure options for all segments of the society;

   (b) Strengthen the capacities of administrative and financial institutions as well as delivery systems responsible for expanding access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, particularly by the poor and women;

   (c) Promote integrated urban governance and support efforts of urban centres to innovate and learn from each other in order to address their challenges in the areas of land, housing, basic services and infrastructure;

5. **Urges** Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners, with regard to land issues, to:

   (a) Implement land policy development programmes so as to achieve sustainable urban development and to better manage climate change, ensuring that land interventions are anchored within a land governance framework;

   (b) Promote security of tenure for all segments of society by identifying and adopting intermediate forms of tenure arrangements, adopting alternative forms of land administration and land records alongside conventional land administration systems, and intensifying efforts to achieve secure tenure in-post conflict and post-disaster situations;

   (c) Review and improve urban land delivery mechanisms, including land administration, land information management and land-based tax systems, so as to expand access to housing, basic services and infrastructure, particularly for the poor and women;

   (d) Create mechanisms for capturing rising land values by governments so as to generate additional local revenue for redistributive policies and to finance infrastructure development;

6. **Also urges** Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners, with regard to housing issues, to:

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

   (b) Promote enabling housing policies and reforms that facilitate the delivery of affordable and adequate housing solutions for all social groups;

   (c) Enhance the contribution of the housing sector to national economic development through policy and institutional reforms necessary to achieve this goal;

   (d) Provide support for the development of a global housing strategy and its presentation to the Governing Council and General Assembly, as outlined in the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan - 2008-2013.
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure UN-Habitat’s involvement in the preparatory process of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure the transmission, through the President of the Governing Council, of the results of the dialogue on the theme of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council to the Bureau of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20);

9. *Further 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.