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Governing Council  
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**Nineteenth session**

Nairobi, 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

**Resolution No 19/10: Urban-rural linkages and sustainable urbanization**

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 6 of the [Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements](#) and paragraphs 163 and 169 of the [Habitat Agenda](#), which emphasize that urban and rural areas are interdependent economically, socially and environmentally and that an integrated approach is required to promote balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural development,

Recalling also [resolution 17/10 of 14 May 1999](#) of the Commission on Human Settlements, which requested that urban-rural interdependence be taken into consideration in the execution of the work programme of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) given the strong synergy between urban and rural areas, 45

Recalling further paragraph 3 of the [Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium](#), which emphasizes that cities and towns are engines of growth contributing to the development of both rural and urban human settlements,

Recognizing that rural-urban linkages refer to complementary functions and flows of people, capital, goods, employment, information and technology between rural and urban areas,

Noting the significance attached to the subject during the Habitat Agenda partner dialogues on sustainable urbanization at both the first session of the World Urban Forum<sup>13</sup> and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August- 4 September 2002,

Acknowledging the importance of rural-urban complementarities for poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development and urbanization, and that positive urban-rural linkages can improve living conditions and employment opportunities for both rural and urban populations and thus help manage rural-urban migration,

Recognizing that domestic trade and infrastructure are the backbone of mutually beneficial urban-rural relationships and that the adequacy and efficiency of infrastructure provision determines, to a large extent, the success or failure of the relationships between cities and their rural hinterlands,

Recognizing also the importance of gender mainstreaming in all efforts related to the integration of the rural-urban dimension in sustainable human settlements development and management,

Recognizing further the importance of pro-poor economic and social policies given that rural urban linkages provide opportunities for as well as constraints on poverty reduction,

Taking note of the theme paper presented by the Executive Director,

Noting with appreciation the work which has already been carried out by UN-HABITAT in promoting urban-rural linkages in human settlements development and management,

1. Encourages Governments to institutionalize and integrate rural-urban linkages into their respective national and subnational development planning processes and to increase investment in physical, economic and social infrastructure with a view to stimulating sustainable local development, and increasing productivity and sustained economic growth, minimizing the ecological footprints of cities and enhancing better balanced and reciprocally beneficial urban-rural development and thus promoting sustainable urbanization;
2. Also encourages Governments to create as appropriate, or where they already exist to strengthen mechanisms for regional planning that view urban development from a holistic perspective;
3. Invites Governments to facilitate, inter alia through those mechanisms, the access of the poorer segments of both rural and urban populations to a variety of livelihood opportunities;
4. Requests the Executive Director to raise awareness regarding the direct relationship between positive urban-rural development linkages and sustainable urbanization and to help develop the capacity of central government and local authorities in that area, particularly in developing countries;
5. Also requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with appropriate partners, to disseminate good practices and policies on mutually beneficial urban-rural development relationships which could be replicated in other countries, and to help develop the capacity of central Governments and local authorities in that area;
6. Invites Governments, bilateral agencies, multilateral organizations and private-sector organizations to consider providing resources to UN-HABITAT to support its work on promoting positive urban-rural linkages in the framework of sustainable urbanization strategies;
7. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its next session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting  
9 May 2003