

## 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 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,<sup>9</sup>

**Recalling** that the Habitat Agenda<sup>10</sup> 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 decisionmaking 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,<sup>11</sup> 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:

- (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;

**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 twentyfourth session.

**7<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting**  
**15 April 2011**