

15 November 2012

**Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
(UN-Habitat)**

**Twenty-fourth session (Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013)**

**Notification by the Executive Director**

**Dates, venue and participation**

1. The twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) will be held from 15 to 19 April 2013 at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi. A copy of the provisional agenda for the meeting is attached to the present notification and will be followed by other documentation in due course.
2. The session will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 15 April 2013. Representatives and invited guests are requested to be seated by 9.45 a.m.
3. Members of the Governing Council as at 1 January 2012 and as from 1 January 2013 are listed herewith (see annex I). It should be noted that, pursuant to rule 61 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, a State which is a Member of the United Nations or a member of a specialized agency, but is not a member of the Governing Council, may participate in the deliberations of the Governing Council in the capacity of observer.

**Informal consultations**

4. To facilitate the work of the Governing Council, arrangements will be made for informal consultations to be held between the regional groups on various matters, in particular the election of officers, on Sunday, 14 April, provisionally at 11 a.m. The first issue of the journal for the session will be published on that day and will include information on the allocation of rooms and timings for those meetings. Attention is drawn to the note on the geographical distribution of officers elected at previous Governing Council sessions (see annex II).
5. In addition, it is expected that various partners, notably local authorities, parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations, will convene their own informal consultations, events and activities prior to and during the session. Detailed information on this matter will be communicated to all participants by the Secretariat as soon as it is available.

**Key issues to be discussed**

6. Among the key issues to be considered by the Governing Council at its forthcoming session are the following:
  - (a) The activities of UN-Habitat, including coordination matters;
  - (b) The work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2014–2015;
  - (c) The special theme for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council: “Sustainable urban development: the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender”.
7. The Executive Director is urging all States to participate fully in the session. Given that the Governing Council is expected to deliberate on a number of important resolutions pertaining to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, it is anticipated that States will attach great significance to the need for high-level representation, including at the policymaking level, and for substantive representation at the session.

8. The Executive Director wishes to bring to the attention of Governments resolution 16/12 of the Governing Council, in which Governments were invited to include in their delegations to future sessions of the Governing Council representatives of local authorities and relevant civil society actors, in particular from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and research organizations in the fields of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. The Executive Director also wishes to highlight the importance given by the Governing Council to the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, with regard to the roles of local authorities and members of civil society.

9. It should be noted that, pursuant to the request by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/206, the Governing Council has amended its rules of procedure to provide for the effective participation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners in its deliberations. These provisions are contained in rules 64 to 67 of the rules of procedure.

10. The Executive Director would also like to emphasize that both UN-Habitat and member States would benefit greatly if States were to include in their delegations their permanent representatives to UN-Habitat or representatives of other focal points in Nairobi with whom UN-Habitat is continuously engaged. The Executive Director would therefore be grateful if States would provide information on the composition of their delegations as soon as possible. In accordance with rule 16 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives should be submitted to the Executive Director no later than the end of the first meeting of the session (15 April 2013).

### **Organizational arrangements for the session**

11. Annexes III and IV to the present notification contain the suggestions of the Executive Director concerning procedural and organizational aspects of the session, and a suggested timetable produced in line with relevant recommendations contained in Governing Council resolution 20/21. Annex V contains the provisional agenda for the session and a list of pre-session documents.

12. Participants are encouraged to pre-register online at [www.unhabitat.org/gc24](http://www.unhabitat.org/gc24) from 10 January 2013. Participation is restricted to member States, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners. On-site registration will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 11 April 2013. Delegates from civil society organizations will be required to present evidence of their accreditation upon arrival at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

13. Information for participants regarding such matters as accommodation, visas and medical requirements will be available on the UN-Habitat website ([www.unhabitat.org/gc24](http://www.unhabitat.org/gc24)) from the date of commencement of online registration. Enquiries regarding these or any other matters concerning the organizational aspects of the session should be directed to Mr. Chris Mensah at the following address:

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## Annex I

### Membership of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

#### A. Membership of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 1 January 2012 (58 members)\*

##### African States (16)

Algeria (2014)  
Burkina Faso (2015)  
Central African Republic (2014)  
Congo (2015)  
Côte d'Ivoire (2012)  
Ethiopia (2012)  
Gabon (2014)  
Lesotho (2015)  
Mali (2014)  
Mozambique (2014)  
Nigeria (2014)  
Rwanda (2012)  
South Africa (2015)  
Sudan (2012)  
Tunisia (2012)  
United Republic of Tanzania (2015)

##### Latin American and Caribbean States (10)

Antigua and Barbuda (2012)  
Argentina (2014)  
Brazil (2015)  
Chile (2014)  
Cuba (2012)  
Grenada (2014)  
Guatemala (2012)  
Haiti (2015)  
Mexico (2015)  
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2014)

##### Eastern European States (6)

Albania (2014)  
Armenia (2012)  
Czech Republic (2012)  
Russian Federation (2014)

*Two vacant seats*

##### Western European and other States (13)

Finland (2014)  
France (2012)  
Germany (2015)  
Israel (2015)  
Italy (2015)  
Norway (2012)  
Spain (2012)  
Sweden (2014)  
Turkey (2014)  
United States of America (2014)

*Three vacant seats*

##### Asia-Pacific States (13)

Afghanistan (2012)  
Bahrain (2015)  
Bangladesh (2012)  
China (2012)  
India (2015)  
Indonesia (2014)  
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2014)  
Japan (2014)  
Jordan (2015)  
Pakistan (2014)  
Republic of Korea (2012)  
Saudi Arabia (2015)  
Thailand (2015)

\* Terms of office expire on 31 December of the years indicated. The information contained in this table was provided by the Economic and Social Council and reflects membership status as at 5 December 2011.

**B. Membership of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as from 1 January 2013 (58 members)\***

**African States (16)**

Algeria (2014)  
Benin (2016)  
Burkina Faso (2015)  
Central African Republic (2014)  
Congo (2015)  
Gabon (2014)  
Lesotho (2015)  
Madagascar (2016)  
Mali (2014)  
Morocco (2016)  
Mozambique (2014)  
Nigeria (2014)  
Somalia (2016)  
South Africa (2015)  
Uganda (2016)  
United Republic of Tanzania (2015)

**Latin American and Caribbean States (10)**

Antigua and Barbuda (2016)  
Argentina (2014)  
Brazil (2015)  
Chile (2014)  
Grenada (2014)  
Haiti (2015)  
Mexico (2015)  
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2014)

*Two vacant seats*

**Eastern European States (6)**

Albania (2014)  
Russian Federation (2014)

*Four vacant seats*

**Western European and other States (13)**

Finland (2014)  
Germany (2015)  
Israel (2015)  
Italy (2015)  
Sweden (2014)  
Turkey (2014)  
United States of America (2014)

*Six vacant seats*

**Asia-Pacific States (13)**

Bahrain (2015)  
Bangladesh (2016)  
China (2016)  
India (2015)  
Indonesia (2014)  
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2014)  
Japan (2014)  
Jordan (2015)  
Pakistan (2014)  
Republic of Korea (2016)  
Saudi Arabia (2015)  
Sri Lanka (2016)  
Thailand (2015)

\* Terms of office expire on 31 December of the years indicated. The information contained in this table was provided by the Economic and Social Council and reflects membership status as at 26 April 2012.

## Annex II

### Geographical distribution of officers elected at previous sessions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

<i>Year</i>	<i>Session of the Governing Council</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>
1978	First	Western European and other States (Sweden)	African States (Malawi) Eastern European States (Poland) Latin American States (Mexico)	Asian States (Philippines)
1979	Second	African States (Kenya)	Asian States (Pakistan) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Eastern European States (Poland)
1980	Third	Latin American States (Mexico)	African States (Nigeria) Asian States (Iraq) Eastern European States (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)
1981	Fourth	Asian States (Philippines)	African States (Lesotho) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (Federal Republic of Germany)	Latin American States (Jamaica)
1982	Fifth	Eastern European States (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Latin American States (Jamaica) Western European and other States (Canada)	African States (Egypt)
1983	Sixth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Zambia) Eastern European States (Bulgaria) Latin American States (Argentina)	Asian States (Bangladesh)
1984	Seventh	African States (Gabon)	Asian States (India) Latin American States (Chile) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Eastern European States (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
1985	Eighth	Latin American States (Jamaica)	African States (Tunisia) Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (Hungary)	Western European and other States (Greece)
1986	Ninth	Western European and other States (Turkey)	African States (Kenya) Asian States (Bangladesh) Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American States (Chile)
1987	Tenth	Eastern European States (Bulgaria)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Colombia) Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Kenya)
1988	Eleventh	Asian States (India)	African States (Botswana) Latin American States (Brazil) Western European and other States (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Eastern European States (Poland)

1989	Twelfth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Gabon) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Asian States (Sri Lanka)
1991	Thirteenth	African States (Zimbabwe)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (Soviet Union) Latin American States (Brazil)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)
1993	Fourteenth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Uganda) Asian States (Philippines) Eastern European States (Romania)	Latin American States (Chile)
1995	Fifteenth	Eastern European States (Russian Federation)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Venezuela) Western European and other States (United Kingdom)	African States (Cameroon)
1997	Sixteenth	Asian States (Bangladesh)	African States (Kenya) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Norway)	Eastern European States (Romania)
1999	Seventeenth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Senegal) Eastern European States (Bulgaria) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Asian States (Iran (Islamic Republic of))
2001	Eighteenth	African States (Algeria)	Asian States (Bangladesh) Eastern European States (Russian Federation) Latin American States (Argentina)	Western European and other States (Turkey)
2003	Nineteenth	Western European and other States (Sweden)	African States (Malawi) Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American States (Chile)
2005	Twentieth	Eastern European States (Czech Republic)	Asian States (Philippines) Latin American States (Argentina) Western European and other States (Germany)	African States (Nigeria)
2007	Twenty-first	Asian States (India)	African States (Uganda) Latin American States (Argentina) Western European and other States (Canada)	Eastern European States (Russian Federation)
2009	Twenty-second	Latin American States (Jamaica)	African States (Zambia) Eastern European States (Czech Republic) Western European and other States (Germany)	Asian States (Pakistan)
2011	Twenty-third	African States (Rwanda)	Asian States (China) Eastern European States (Russian Federation) Latin American States (Chile)	Western European and other States (Finland)

Under the principle of geographical rotation provided for in paragraph 2 of rule 17 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the following regional groups should provide candidates for the offices in question for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council:

2013	Twenty-fourth	Western European and other States	African States Asia-Pacific States Eastern European States	Latin American States
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## **Annex III**

### **Proposed organizational arrangements for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat**

#### **Note by the Executive Director**

1. The Governing Council may wish to adopt, for the efficient conduct of its work during its twenty-fourth session, the proposed organizational arrangements set out below. This proposal has been prepared in line with the recommendations of resolution 20/21, on the organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council, by which the Council called upon the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, acting as the intersessional subsidiary body of the Council, to recommend to the Council further proposals for improving the structure and organization of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Council. At its twenty-third meeting, on 7 December 2006, the Committee approved a set of such proposals for the twenty-first session and all future sessions that is reflected in the present note, in particular with regard to the high-level segment, the dialogue and the theme.

#### **A. Bureau**

2. In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau should comprise the President, the three Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur of the Governing Council, elected with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution by rotation among the regional groups of States. Annex II shows the geographical distribution of Bureau members at previous Governing Council sessions.

3. As provided for in rule 18, one vice-president should be designated to chair the sessional Committee of the Whole referred to in paragraph 17 below. The remaining two vice-presidents would assist the President directly in his or her duties in plenary meeting and in the chairing of the ad hoc drafting committee referred to in paragraph 18 below.

#### **B. Plenary**

4. Following consultations with the Bureau, it is recommended that work in the plenary meetings should be divided into two segments: first, a high-level segment, with interventions primarily by ministers and other heads of delegation, which would be held on the first and second days; and, second, a dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, to be held on the third day. It should be noted that part of the morning meeting on the first day will be devoted to organizational matters.

#### **C. High-level segment**

5. It is suggested that the high-level segment focus its discussions on the theme and the theme paper for the session, along with aspects related to item 5 of the provisional agenda (Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters) and item 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).

6. It may be recalled that, by its resolution 20/21, the Governing Council decided that the theme of the dialogue should establish a link between the high-level segment and the dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners and provide for cohesion in the policy discussions in plenary meetings.

7. To accommodate the 60 to 80 delegations that normally attend the Governing Council sessions, it is recommended that, during the high-level segment, each delegation be allowed a maximum of five minutes of speaking time and that this limit be strictly adhered to.

8. In establishing the list of speakers for the high-level segment, precedence will be given to ministers and deputy ministers. They will be followed by other heads of governmental delegations, then by a limited number of representatives of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, in accordance with rules 64 and 65 of the rules of procedure.

#### **D. Dialogue with local authorities and other partners**

9. It should be recalled that, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 16/12, the Governing Council decided to provide, at future sessions, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among

themselves and with Governments. Such dialogues may, as appropriate, serve as an input to the deliberations of the Governing Council.

10. In line with the relevant paragraphs of resolution 20/21 (see annex VI), the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, advised the Bureau of the Governing Council for the twenty-third session that the theme for the twenty-fourth session should be “Sustainable urban development: the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender”. The President of the Governing Council, on behalf of the Bureau, concurred with that recommendation.

11. In pursuance of the above resolutions, and with a view to increasing the participation in and contribution of local authorities and other partners to the work of the Governing Council and towards the attainment of common goals to achieve the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the relevant Millennium Development Goals and the aims outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, arrangements have been made for a dialogue with local authorities and other partners to be held during the plenary meeting on the third day (see annex IV). That dialogue, which will be on the above-mentioned theme, will be based on the format followed by Committee II at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II), held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, whereby representatives of partner groups will be given an opportunity to make a substantive presentation, followed by a dialogue or discussion between Governments and partners on those presentations.

12. To that end, local authorities and other partners are encouraged to submit, in advance, a written summary of their presentation to the Secretariat for distribution to all participants ahead of the meeting.

13. It is expected that the presentations to be made by representatives of local authorities and other partners will be the outcome of consultations by those groups with non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, professionals, researchers and labour unions. Arrangements will be made for local authorities and each group of partners, should they so wish, to hold consultations in Nairobi immediately prior to the session, or at a time and venue of their choice.

14. Detailed information on the organization of the dialogue will be provided at a later date.

## **E. Summary by the President**

15. At the end of the high-level segment and the dialogue, the President, drawing on the deliberations of those two plenary meetings, will prepare a summary of the main issues raised in the high-level segment and the conclusions or recommendations made during the dialogue. That summary will reflect the main thrust of the discussions and key positions set out during the two segments and will be submitted for endorsement in plenary meeting. Any draft resolution that may emerge out of the discussions at those plenary meetings will be referred to the drafting committee for action.

16. Once endorsed by the Governing Council as an accurate reflection of discussions during the high-level segment and the dialogue, and subsequent to the required legislative process, the conclusions and recommendations of the President will serve as guidelines for follow-up action by Governments, local authorities, other partners and the Secretariat, specifically in support of the current focus areas of the UN-Habitat work programme.

## **F. Sessional Committee of the Whole**

17. Bearing in mind the organization of work for previous sessions of the Governing Council and the above recommendations on the work in plenary meetings, the Governing Council may wish to establish a sessional committee of the whole that would be accorded responsibility for the detailed consideration of agenda items 5, 7 and 8.

## **G. Drafting Committee**

18. At its nineteenth session, on an informal basis, the Governing Council established an ad hoc open-ended drafting committee, chaired by one of the vice-presidents, to pre-screen draft resolutions submitted by delegations with a view to merging, reconciling or clarifying them, as necessary, prior to their consideration by the Governing Council in plenary meeting. The Governing Council may wish to continue this practice, which was widely considered to have enhanced the efficiency of its work, with the report of the drafting committee first passing through the Committee of the Whole for endorsement prior to final adoption by the Governing Council.

## **H. Proposed timetable and agenda items**

19. A proposed organization of work and timetable for the session is provided in annex IV, and a list of the agenda items for the session and corresponding documents is provided in annex V.

## Annex IV

### Proposed organization of work and timetable for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Committee of the Whole</i>	<i>Drafting Committee</i>
Monday, 15 April	a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening of session</li> <li>Organizational matters: high-level segment: agenda items 1–4</li> </ul>	-	-
	p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-level segment: agenda items 5–7</li> </ul>	Agenda item 5	-
Tuesday, 16 April	a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-level segment: agenda items 5 and 6</li> </ul>	Agenda item 5	Consultations on draft resolutions
	p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-level segment: agenda items 5 and 6</li> </ul>	Agenda item 7	
Wednesday, 17 April	a.m. and p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialogue between Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners on the special theme: agenda item 6 (full day)</li> </ul>	Agenda item 7	Consultations on draft resolutions
Thursday, 18 April	a.m.	-	Agenda item 8	Consultations on draft resolutions
	p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of draft reports on items 5 and 7, and report on draft decision on item 8</li> </ul>		
Friday, 19 April	a.m. and p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary by Chair of high-level segment and dialogue</li> <li>Draft reports of plenary on items 1–4</li> <li>Draft reports of the Committee of the Whole</li> <li>Report on draft resolutions and agenda items 8–11</li> </ul>		

## **Annex V**

### **Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat**

#### **A. Provisional agenda**

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-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.

**B. List of documents before the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat**

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Description</i>
4	HSP/GC/24/1	Provisional agenda
4	HSP/GC/24/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda, including organization of work
4	HSP/GC/24/INF/1	List of documents before the Governing Council
5	HSP/GC/24/2	Progress report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
5	HSP/GC/24/2/Add.1	Review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: addendum to the report of the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/24/2/Add.2	Report of the sixth session of the World Urban Forum: addendum to the report of the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/24/2/Add.3	Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III): addendum to the report of the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/24/2/Add.4	Joint activities in the urban environment: joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: addendum to the report of the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/24/2/Add.5	Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other UN-Habitat partners in the implementation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme medium-term strategic and institutional plan 2008–2013: addendum to the report of the Executive Director
5	HSP/GC/24/3	Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its work during the intersessional period
5	HSP/GC/24/3/Add.1	Note by the Secretariat on draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives: addendum to the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
5	HSP/GC/24/INF/2	Report of the sixth session of the World Urban Forum
5	HSP/GC/24/INF/3	Country activities report 2013
6	HSP/GC/24/4	Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session: report of the Executive Director
7	HSP/GC/24/5	Report of the Executive Director on the proposed work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2014–2015
7	HSP/GC/24/5/Add.1	Progress report on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan 2008–2013: addendum to the report of the Executive Director
7	HSP/GC/24/5/Add.2	Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme 2014–2019: addendum to the report of the Executive Director

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Description</i>
7	HSP/GC/24/5/Add.3	Gender equality and empowerment of women in sustainable urban development: addendum to the report of the Executive Director
7	HSP/GC/24/5/Add.4	Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: addendum to the report of the Executive Director
7	HSP/GC/24/INF/4	Note by the Secretariat on the status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as at 1 March 2013
8	HSP/GC/24/6	Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council

### **Resolution 20/21: Organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council**

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 5/15 of 7 May 1982, in which it decided to designate the subjects of the special themes of its sessions two years in advance,

*Also recalling* its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, in which it decided to provide, at future sessions of the Council, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments,

*Further recalling* its resolution 19/5 of 9 May 2003, in which it decided that a continuing focus of its twentieth and future sessions should be the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>1</sup> on improving the lives of slum-dwellers,

*Noting* that the World Urban Forum now provides an opportunity for extensive dialogue among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners,

*Recognizing* the importance during sessions of the Governing Council of a focused, interactive high-level segment on priority policy issues,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on improving preparations for the Governing Council, which are contained in the appendix to the present resolution;

2. *Decides* that the special themes referred to in resolution 5/15 shall no longer be chosen two years in advance, but shall instead be selected by the Bureau of the Governing Council at least six months before the start of each session of the Governing Council, on the basis of advice from the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into account the outcome of the sessions of the World Urban Forum and the requirement for a continuing focus on the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers;

3. *Also decides* that the high-level segment and the dialogues referred to in its resolution 16/12 should normally focus on those special themes and should constitute the substantive debate on the special themes;

4. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to recommend to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, through the Bureau of the Governing Council, further proposals for improving the structure and organizational arrangements of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council including, in particular, the high-level segment;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare a background paper for use by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in complying with the request set forth in the preceding paragraph.

8 April 2005

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1 General Assembly resolution 55/2.