Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Twenty fourth Session
Nairobi, 15th – 19th April 2013.

Resolution No 24/XX: Promoting sustainable urban development by creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to women, youth and other vulnerable groups

The Governing Council,

Recalling Habitat Agenda (para 4) which recognizes that sustainable development of human settlements combines economic development, social development and environmental protection, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Recalling paragraph 155 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognizes that urban economies are integral to the process of economic transformation and development and that they are a prerequisite for the creation of a diversified economic base capable of generating employment opportunities,

Recalling paragraph 115 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognizes that the eradication of poverty requires, inter alia, creating employment opportunities, equal and universal access to economic opportunities and special efforts to facilitate such access for the disadvantaged, training that will promote sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work; and basic social services.

Recalling paragraphs 158-161 of the Habitat Agenda, which urge Governments to, inter alia, formulate and implement financial policies that stimulate urban employment opportunities, offer opportunities for urban economic activities by facilitating access of small and medium-sized enterprises, including the informal sector, to credit and finance and streamline legal and administrative procedures,

Recalling paragraph 119 of the Habitat Agenda, which encourages Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to foster economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women in both formal and informal sectors,

Recalling paragraphs 13, 33, 45 and 120 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognize the importance of working in partnership with young people in human settlements management and development and of their empowerment to participate in decision-making in order to improve urban livelihoods and contribute to sustainable human settlements,

Recalling paragraph 76 of the Habitat Agenda, which requests Governments to consider the adoption of innovative instruments that capture gains in land value,
Recalling further the Governing Council resolution 20/7 of April 2005, which requested Governments and local authorities to foster gender equality and empowerment of women within the context of sustainable urban development,

Recalling also the Governing Council resolution 21/6 of April 2007, which requested UN-Habitat to establish an Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development with aim to strengthening the agency’s work on urban youth through youth-led initiatives, including through vocational training and grants to promote entrepreneurship and employment for youth,

Recognizing paragraph 135 of the Rio+20 outcome document entitled *The Future We Want* in which governments committed themselves to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements and the generation of decent jobs,

Noting with appreciation the appointment of a special advisor on youth by the UN Secretary-General in January 2013 with aim to promoting the engagement of youth in the UN system,

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

Noting with appreciation the renewed emphasis of UN-Habitat as reflected in its proposed strategic plan 2014-2019, on urban economy, and the role of urban planning, innovative financing and economic empowerment of youth and women in the creation of sustain cities,

1. Encourages Governments to apply good urban planning policies to enhance economic productivity and spatial equity, to implement economic empowerment programmes that create opportunities for youth and women and to adopt innovative tools for generating additional resources for local urban authorities, including through land value sharing, and job opportunities in the construction and urban basic services sectors.

2. Encourages Governments to institutionalize a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties, with special attention to the needs and priorities of women, minorities, children, youth, people with disabilities, older persons and persons living in poverty and exclusion.

3. Requests Governments to promote participation of youth in governance through the creation of a Permanent Forum on Youth,

4. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen UN-Habitat’s knowledge base on urban economy and municipal finance, including documenting, sharing and applying good practices and tools on economics of spatial urban form, economic development strategies, and economic empowerment of youth and women,

5. Requests the Executive Director to mainstream of cross-cutting issues, including inter alia gender, youth, human rights, environment and other relevant issues in UN-Habitat’s projects,
6. Requests the Executive Director to continue the work in the Youth21 process and in the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Youth,

7. Invites Governments, bilateral agencies, multilateral organizations and private sector organizations to consider providing resources to UN-Habitat to support its work on promoting the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, particularly employment for youth and women, local economic development initiatives and the use of innovative revenue generating tools by local urban authorities,

8. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution at the twenty-fifth Governing Council.