DRAFT (28 February 2013)
Resolution 24/3: Inclusive National and Local Housing Strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy Paradigm Shift

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Global Housing Strategy Framework Document and UN-Habitat report on resolution 23/16 submitted to the 24th session of UN-Habitat Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution adopting the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, and paragraph 65 of the Habitat Agenda, which encourages the periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies with a view of creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems,

Recognizing the inefficient delivery of housing that has not met the demand in many countries witnessed by large numbers of vacant housing units, some cases the establishment of isolated “ghost towns”, as a result of output-based housing policies and strategies where experience has shown that supply does not meet demand; resulting in the need for a paradigm shift to results-based housing policies and strategies that recognize that urban planning is a prerequisite to integrate housing with other urban uses such as economic basic urban services, recreation and other.

Recalling the targets set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000) and the Declaration of Cities in the New Millennium (2001) of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020,

Taking note of the reports of the fifth and sixth sessions of the World Urban Forum, highlighting the large number of events related to housing and slum upgrading demonstrating a sustained demand for UN-Habitat to respond to housing and slum upgrading issues,

Taking note of the Rabat Declaration of the International Conference on “Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge for 2020”, November 2012, where 25 members states committed to “halving the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030, to be part of the overall formulation of the new Sustainable Development Goals and of the Habitat III Conference preparatory process”;,

Recognizing that achievements towards the implementation of the MDG7 have been made by improving the living conditions of more than 220 million slum dwellers surpassing the target of 100 million; there has been in the meanwhile an additional 360 million slum dwellers added to the urban population globally; this therefore calls for a new approach to slum upgrading and prevention,

Recognizing that slum upgrading must be undertaken as part of a broader framework of national urban and housing policies, underpinned by appropriate urban planning as an important tool to prevent the formulation of new slums and acknowledging that slums are no stand-alone phenomenon, and are linked to the urban poverty and inequalities, lack of mixed use urban planning and adequate land and housing options,

Recognizing efforts made by Governments implementing large scale inclusive housing programmes for diversifying access to adequate housing for all as well as by Governments implementing the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries.

Acknowledging that sustainable, adequate, rights-based and inclusive housing policies and strategies are instrumental in addressing the challenge of slums and sustainable urban development as well as contributing to stimulating urban economic development and job creation,

Recognizing the progress UN-Habitat has made to date in developing the Global Housing Strategy framework document and in widely disseminating the concept and engaging in discussions with more than 600,000, national and city housing officials, professionals, academics, civil society and the private through innovative social media and advocating for the principles and methodology to more than in various international conferences and workshops,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national governments, local authorities, communities, and Habitat Agenda Partners to have a voice in the global dialogue on housing and slum upgrading towards realising a global paradigm shift in thinking and practice in housing policy and serviced land delivery within the new charter for urban planning by strengthening the linkages between urban planning, neighbourhood development and housing, including slum upgrading and prevention,

2 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.
1. Requests UN-Habitat to pursue the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy, proposing a paradigm shift, where needed, including the integration of housing with other urban uses, encouraging pro-poor performance of markets, promoting systemic reforms to enable wider access to adequate housing solutions, strengthening linkages between housing, the economy, employment and poverty reduction, using sustainable building and neighbourhood designs, and contributing to improving the living conditions of slum dwellers.

2. Requests UN-Habitat to achieve the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy by developing normative material as well as supporting requests from Member States to address the current drawbacks in housing delivery by utilizing urban planning as an entry point to housing, ensuring that housing is delivered as part of mixed urban uses, as well as achieving appropriate density, the integration of social groups and improved mobility.

3. Requests UN-Habitat to document good practices from countries that are already applying the principles of the Global Housing Strategy, develop guidelines and evaluation frameworks to support policy makers in developing appropriate housing and slum upgrading policies that are inclusive, based on evidence, gender responsive, and rights based and that ensure that adequate quality and quantities of housing that is accessible to all is produced by a variety of actors and methods.

4. Requests UN-Habitat to ensure that the Global Housing Strategy will contribute to the Habitat III preparatory process from the housing and slum upgrading and prevention perspective.

5. Requests member states to set their own slum reduction targets along the lines of the Rabat Declaration to halve the number of slum dwellers between 2015 and 2030.

6. Invites central and local governments to participate and engage with UN-Habitat in regional and national platforms, including the Global Housing Strategy Network, to discuss efficient, evidence-based knowledge, experiences and effective innovative practices relating to housing and slum upgrading, urban evidence-based research and innovative approaches. It further invites UN-Habitat to pursue the Global Housing Strategy, including its principles and guidelines towards achieving its outcomes at the global, national and local levels.

7. Invites the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to support central and local governments and key Habitat Agenda Partners and their national and local urban coordination mechanisms in formulating, mobilizing resources, implementing, monitoring and evaluating inclusive National and Local Housing Strategies.

8. Encourages Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners to participate actively in the Post-2015 Millennium Development Goals international discourse as well as in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure that issues of urban planning, adequate housing and slum improvement and prevention are appropriately addressed and financed.

9. Encourages Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners to empower all citizens, particularly women and youth, through inclusive wide-based participatory processes to effectively contribute to the development and implementation of housing and slum upgrading strategies as well as Action Plans leading to security of tenure.

10. Invites member states to support UN-Habitat in meeting the increasing demand from Habitat Agenda Partners and Governments through research, fostering exchanges of best practices, and developing programmes, including capacity development and pre-investment programmes.