Twenty-fourth Session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council

Draft Resolution 24/6

Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III)


Recalling further relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on both the preparations for Habitat II and on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

Recognizing the effective roles of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, and of intergovernmental, subregional and regional organizations in the subregional and regional preparatory processes for Habitat II, through coordination, facilitation and funding of, inter alia, inter-ministerial meetings and the participation of countries with insufficient resources;

Welcoming the outcome document entitled “The Future We Want”
of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, especially paragraphs 134 to 137 on sustainable cities and human settlements;

Acknowledging that while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, challenges remain, such as inter alia the continuing increase of slum-dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements;

Recognizing the specific progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11 while noting that slums continue to be a global challenge;

Recognizing also the need for an in-depth review and assessment at the national, regional and international levels of the progress made towards the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda and of other international goals relevant to human settlements as a basis for the formulation of a new urban agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/216 by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations System, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its 24th session, as to how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the Conference in the most
inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) [and endorses the proposals contained in that report]; (SECRETARIAT)

2. Invites member States to carry out, before the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III to be held in New York during the 69th session of the General Assembly, evidence-based national assessments to identify achievements attained and challenges encountered in the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda and of other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets, as a basis for the formulation of a “New Urban Agenda”, in line with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 67/216; (UGANDA)

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of UN-Habitat and of the United Nations System as a whole and, specifically, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, to prepare regional reports synthesizing the results of national assessments of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and of other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets as inputs to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of UN-Habitat and of the United Nations System as a whole, to prepare a global report synthesizing the results of national and regional assessments of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and of other relevant internationally agreed goals
and targets as an input to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to organize meetings at the regional and international levels, as appropriate, to discuss the results of assessments of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and relevant internationally agreed goals and targets and to provide inputs to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, taking full advantage of planned regional and global meetings such as the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, sessions of the United Nations regional commissions and regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development as well as of other relevant regional inter-governmental meeting;

6. *Invites* *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of UN-Habitat and of the United Nations System as a whole, to provide support to member States, *including* through their national habitat committees or national urban forums, to carry out national assessments of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and of other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets, and to strengthen mechanisms for enabling the effective participation and contribution of all Habitat Agenda partners at all stages of the preparatory process and at the Conference itself, including national urban campaigns; *(SECRETARIAT)*

7. Also *invites* *calls upon* the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue engaging all Habitat Agenda partners and new partners in the World Urban Campaign in order to identify and collect good practices that could contribute to the new urban agenda and
to support national urban campaigns and their communication and outreach activities initiated to contribute to national preparations for Habitat III; **(SECRETARIAT)**

8. **Urges** the Secretary-General of the Conference to propose to the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III specific support mechanisms to enable the effective contributions and active participation of local authorities and their associations, represented by United Cities and Local Governments, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the Conference itself, in response to General Assembly resolution 67/216;

9. **Invites** the United Nations Secretary-General to consider establishing an effective United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism to coordinate sustainable urbanization issues so as to enable the effective participation and contributions of United Nations departments, funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, and the international financial institutions, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the Conference itself; **(USA)**

10. **Requests** the Secretary-General of the Conference to adopt innovative technologies and approaches so as to ensure that the preparatory process for Habitat III is inclusive, participatory and efficient, such as paper-smart meetings and internet platforms that can be used for sharing analytical tools and reports and for promoting dialogue during the Conference’s preparatory process;

11. **Urges** the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to consider mobilizing high level expertise from within the United
Nations system to assist in the drafting-preparatory process of the Conference’s outcome document; (USA; UGANDA)

12. Welcomes the decision of the General Assembly to establish a trust fund for the Conference and urges the Secretary-General of the Conference to establish the Habitat III trust fund, as mandated by the General Assembly through its resolution 67/216, with put in place all mechanisms and operational procedures necessary to ensure the fund’s efficiency and effectiveness, in line with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/216; (SECRETARIAT)

13. Also urges international and bilateral donors as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so to support the national, regional and global preparations for the Habitat III Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries to the Preparatory Committee meetings and to the Conference itself;

14. Welcomes paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 67/216 by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the Conference, while promoting to the maximum possible extent inter-agency support and, in that context, invites Requests the United Nations Secretary-General to provide financial support to UN-Habitat through supplementary financial resources to the Programme’s regular budget allocation for the 2012-2013 biennium to enable it, during 2013, to engage essential expertise and to undertake start preparatory activities for the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, including in particular, providing capacity building, technical and (INDONESIA) expert assistance to member States to carry out national assessments of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and other relevant international goals and targets and organizing relevant missions and meetings; (SECRETARIATFRANCE)

15. Also requestsinvites the United Nations Secretary-General to provideinclude financial support to UN-Habitat through in the Proposed Programme’s regular budget for the Biennium allocation for the 2014-2015 biennium, to enable it, during 2014 and 2015, to prepare adequately for the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, including in particular, engagement of the necessary expertise to prepare regional and global syntheses of national assessments of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and other relevant international goals and targets, and to organize relevant missions and meetings at the regional and international levels; (SECRETARIATFRANCE)
16. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the Conference.