Recalling GC resolution 23/14 on Sustainable Urban Development through Safer Cities and the Prevention of Urban Crime, and recognizing its implementation and the growing involvement of local authorities through the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC),


Convinced that the prevention of urban crime is one of the essential elements of sustainable urban developmental efforts, and recognizing the direct relevance of urban safety as a prerequisite to sustainable urban development,

Underlining the fact that one of the most effective ways to meet the needs of member states in this area is through operational activities, such as advisory services, training programmes and the dissemination and exchange of information,

Taking into account the capacity of the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme generated over the past 16 years on the development and implementation of citywide crime prevention and urban safety strategies in 77 municipalities in 23 countries and its future role in providing services in this field,

Appreciating the partnerships the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme has fostered within the UN system with agencies such as UNODC, UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women integrating the safer cities approach into their programming, pursuant to their mandates,

Recognizing, however, the continued challenges associated with generating adequate financial resources for urban safety implementation of multi-sector and preventive approaches.

1. Notes the advances that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is making in the implementation of GC resolution 23/14 on sustainable urban development policies through safer cities and urban crime prevention;

2. Welcomes the call of mayors and other stakeholders at the Seventh Session of the World Urban Forum in Naples, as part of the Global Network on Safer Cities, for intensified efforts to strengthen the integrity of the safer cities approach by means of international cooperation and UN system-wide guidelines on safer cities and financing mechanisms on safer cities;

3. Reaffirms the high priority attached to technical cooperation and advisory services as a means for UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme to respond to the needs of the international community in the face of increasing crime and violence in many cities and to assist Member States in achieving the goals of preventing urban crime and improving the response to urban crime, in accordance with ECOSOC 1995/15 resolution, and in line with the Governing Council resolution 23/14;

4. Stresses the importance of continuing to improve the operational activities of the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, so as to meet the needs of Member States, at their request, for support in prevention of urban crime and enhancement of urban safety, by undertaking advisory services and training programmes and by carrying out field studies and action-oriented research at the national and local levels, also drawing upon extra-budgetary contributions;

5. Calls upon the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to accelerate its full implementation, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution;

6. Expresses its appreciation to Member States and other United Nations and international entities supporting the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme approach through the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC) or by other means;

7. Urges governments and international stakeholders to consider, within the Post 2015 development agenda, the formulation of goals and targets that recognize the role of cities and urban development for the prevention of violence and crime, including violence against women and girls;

8. Calls for a UN system-wide coordinated approach and guidelines on relevant technical assistance projects and advisory missions on safer cities, in particular by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) among others, to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in line with the objectives of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAI) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).

GC24 Resolution: SUPPORTING ACTION FOR THE CREATION OF SAFER CITIES

The “Guidelines for the prevention of urban crime” must be updated not only to reflect a narrow criminal justice approach but to recognize the key role of local authorities in the prevention and reduction of urban crime, violence and insecurity through a preventive, integrated, multisectoral and public-spaces approach, including the development of a results measurement framework.

Financial resources are required to support cities overcoming the continued challenges associated with implementing multi-sector and preventive approaches in the urban space. The establishment of a UN-wide Trust Fund or other innovative financial mechanism should be explored to support cities.
Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, UNICEF, and invite these organizations to consider ways of supporting in their activities the goals and technical cooperation activities of the UN-Habitat safer cities programme as part of an inter-agency collaborative framework on safer cities.

9. *Calls upon* all relevant international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue cooperating with UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme in support of its operational and technical activities, as part of the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC);

10. *Calls for* the development of an urban safety monitor to measure results of prevention efforts at the city level.

11. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to set an interagency task team to review and present proposals for updating to current preventive approaches the 1995 “Guidelines for the prevention of urban crime” and the 2002 “Guidelines on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”. The task team should consider the recommendations presented in this regard by local authorities and in particular by the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC), and other stakeholders.

11. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to begin a process of consultation and design to assess the feasibility and scope of a UN system-wide Trust Fund on Safer Cities or other innovative financial mechanism in response to the call of cities and local governments to stimulate urban safety initiatives through broadening the donor base and increasing the number of countries and other partners making financial contributions to the United Nations system on safer cities;

12. *Requests* UN-Habitat to facilitate, as appropriate, joint initiatives and the joint formulation and implementation of technical assistance projects, involving interested donor countries, funding agencies and other relevant entities, and to organize meetings of interested donor and recipient countries on safer cities;

13. *Invites* member States and other donors, to the extent possible, to provide technical, human and financial resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to present this resolution to the Secretary General’s Policy Committee and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.
ANNEX: BACKGROUND NOTES ON PROCESS OF ENGAGING THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, ECOSOC, THE CRIME COMMISSION AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Road-Map for the development of UN-wide Guidelines, Monitor and Trust Fund on Safer Cities to guide local authorities in the development and implementation of the safer cities approach

1. The “Guidelines for the prevention of urban crime” must be updated to respond to the need improve the quality and consistency of policy and programming contributing to the prevention and reduction of urban violence and insecurity from a preventive and public-spaces approach.

2. The Governing Council of UN Habitat, at its 24th Session to be held from the 15th to the 19th April, 2013 in Nairobi, could recognize the implementation of its decision 23/14 “On sustainable urban development through safer cities policies” and the growing involvement of local authorities through the Global Network for Safer Cities.

3. In the same opportunity the Governing Council could call for a UN system-wide coordinated approach, in particular with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF and UN Women, and invite these organizations to consider ways of supporting in their activities the goals of the safer cities programme as part of an inter-agency collaborative framework on safer cities.

4. In the same approach the Governing Council could invite the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to set an interagency task team to review and present proposals for updating to current preventive approaches the 1995 “Guidelines for the prevention of urban crime”. The task team should consider the recommendations presented in this regard by local authorities and in particular by the Global Network on Safer Cities, and other stakeholders.

5. The Economic and Social Council, in response, could take that recommendation and adopt in its substantive session in July 2013 a resolution establishing such as task team and request to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to prepare a report for its next session expected to take place in 2014.

6. These recommendations will in turn be useful to the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council during 2014 and 2015.

7. The recommendations could also be taken as part of the first session of the preparatory process of the III United Nations Conference on Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) which will take place in 2014 in New York with the aim of its adoption by 2015 or 2016.