The Governing Council,

Pursuant to its resolution 21/2 of 20 April 2007, which requested the Executive Director to establish, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, clear criteria for the Agency’s country level activities following the approval of the UN-Habitat’s results based medium-term strategic and institutional plan (MTSIP) for the period 2008 – 2013,

Recalling its resolution 23/12 of 14 April 2011, which re-affirmed the importance of country activities as part of the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and as a central component of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the Programme’s enhanced normative and operational framework (ENOF);

Stressing the complementarity and synergy between the operational and normative functions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which constitute a major asset and comparative advantage and acknowledged the role of the regional offices and Habitat Programme Managers in line with resolution 20/15 of 8 April 2005;

Referring to the relevant provisions of the Paris Declaration on Aid effectiveness and the General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on System-wide coherence, by which the development partners underlined the principle of national ownership and leadership, took note of the progress made by “delivering as one” countries and reiterated the objective of simplification and harmonization of business practices, rules and procedures to enhance the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the United Nations development system;

Considering the efforts made by UN-Habitat in recent years since the approval of the MTSIP to take part actively in the United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, as well as the United Nations country teams as a component of its strategy to ease the delivery on its normative and operational mandates in further search for sustainability in the human settlements and urban development sectors;

Taking note of the end of term of the 2008 – 2013 MTSIP, which contributed to rolling out of a set of key activities in support of the Agency’s advocacy and policy advisory services at the country level including the revival of “national urban forums” and the development of “habitat country programme documents” for the purpose of facilitating the inclusion of the urban agenda into national policy and legislation;

Considering further that a robust compact of concrete country activities, which are well funded and better coordinated with the recipient’s national governments and interested partners within the UNDAF has the potential to strengthen the position of UN-Habitat as the focal point for the urban agenda within the international community in the current process leading to the HABITAT III Conference; and therefore:

1. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that country activities remain a central component in the Agency’s work on facilitating sustainable urbanization through its regional offices, with support from the Project Office and in close coordination with the thematic branches;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to intensify the Agency’s efforts to mobilize funds based on a clear and credible resource mobilization strategy and to devote adequate core resources to support country activities aligned with the new priority areas of the Agency and to strengthen UN-Habitat’s efforts in countries affected by human or man-made disasters;
3. *Invites* all Governments that are able and willing to contribute financially to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support the Executive Director’s resource mobilization efforts;

4. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue promoting the south-south cooperation, including triangular cooperation and to take an active part in the United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, in addition to its contribution to the work of United Nations country teams through its regional offices and Habitat Programme Managers.

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with other relevant United Nations programmes and activities at the country level.

6. *Urges* the Executive Director to initiate a regular stock taking undertaking under the coordination of the Agency’s Project Office to assess the impact of the project, programmes and country activities and to harvest cases of good practices and lessons learned from the country level, which should feed back into the global normative work of the Programme with the goal of improving planning and effectiveness;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress made in promoting country activities, including the implementation of the present resolution, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session as a preparatory step to the Habitat III Conference.