



Twenty-fourth session
Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

Draft resolution on World Cities Day

The Governing Council,

Recalling UN-Habitat's long-standing commitment to "adequate shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world", and the Governing Council Resolution 8/4 of 8 May 1985 which recommended to the General Assembly of the United Nations that beginning in 1986, the first Monday of October of every year be called the "Day of Habitat", with a view to calling upon Governments and all walks of life to pay high attention to human settlements issues,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 40/202 which decided to designate the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day,

Recognizing the mega-trend of urbanization in human societies, and that cities, having a network of linkages not only extending far from their own boundaries but also playing a leading role in the development of rural areas, are increasingly instrumental to improving people's living environment and quality,

Recognizing that over 50% of the global population now live in cities and the ratio continues to rise, therefore sustainable urban development has become one of the most pressing global challenges in the 21st century, and that Governments must pay greater attention to and investigate critical issues in urbanization and make joint efforts in building greener, more livable, convenient, harmonious and environment-friendly cities,

Recalling the outcome document entitled "The Future We Want" of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 and its commitment to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements,

Recalling that all participants of Expo 2010 Shanghai China, with the common aspiration to recall, renew and advance in the future the theme "Better City, Better Life", joined the United Nations, the Bureau International des Expositions and the Organizing Committee of Expo 2010 in adopting the Shanghai Declaration on 31 October 2010, in which it is proposed to nominate 31 October as World Better Cities Day,

Recalling also the resolution adopted at the 151st BIE General Assembly on 11 June 2012 on supporting the establishment of World Better Cities Day,

Convinced that World Cities Day, fit for the trend of human societies as well as the goals and missions of UN-Habitat, shall be designated in an appropriate way,

Decides to recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that beginning in 2014, 31 October of every year be designated as World Cities Day.