



Twenty-fourth session
Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

Draft resolution 24/XX: Gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development

Recalling the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and Work programme and Budget 2014-2015 both of which have a clear mandate to strengthen its systematic integration of a gender's perspective in all its work;

Recalling its resolutions 17/11 of 14 May 1999 on women in human settlements development and in the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 19/16 of 9 May 2003 on women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading, 20/7 of 8 April 2005 on gender equality in human settlements development, 21/2 of 20 April 2007 on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013, 21/9 of 20 April 2007 on women's land and property rights and access to finance, and 22/7 of 3 April 2009 on the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2010-2011,

Reaffirming its commitment to the resolution 23/1 of 14 April 2011, emphasizing UN-Habitat's work in systematic integration of a gender's perspective in all its work, including through the establishment of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI), in order to achieve an effective and efficient implementation of gender mainstreaming,

Reaffirming its commitment to ECOSOC resolution 2012/24 on "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system," which requested the United Nations system to continue working collaboratively to enhance gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, including by: continuing to align gender equality programming with national priorities; ensuring that entities within the United Nations system dedicate adequate financial and human resources to gender equality programming at the country level; strengthening the coordination of gender-responsive operational activities; enhancing the use of accountability mechanisms, including at the country level; securing technical expertise for gender equality in programme planning and implementation and providing ongoing capacity development in the area; and promoting the systematic use and analysis of data disaggregated by sex and age in the programming work as well as in measuring progress and impact;

Recognizing that persistent gender-related inequalities and women's lack of empowerment in human settlements, as evidenced by their inequitable access to land, property rights and other economic and financial assets, secure tenure, decent housing, essential infrastructure and basic services; and further aggravated by vulnerability on the safety and security of women and girls' in urban spaces and unequal participation in urban governance, create challenges to achieving sustainable urban development,

Commending UN-Habitat for its work in implementing gender equality and women's empowerment in its policies, programmes and projects, noting that as stated in several documents, including the comprehensive 2011 evaluation of UN-Habitat gender mainstreaming, much remains to be done,

Reaffirming the importance of cooperation between UN-Habitat and UN-Women on gender equality work and on promoting gender-responsive sustainable urban development,

Acknowledging that in view of the urgent need to eliminate violence against women in private and public urban spaces, women's gained citizenship rights requires women's leadership and involvement in urban governance and in urban planning, including for the design of public urban spaces, investments in public infrastructure and improvements of security and justice for communities' and women and girls' safety; active participation in important international fora e.g. the just concluded Commission on the Status of Women where three key side events were held on the theme 'Elimination and Prevention of Violence against women and girls',

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen and support the Agency in executing the two-fold gender strategy: a) the mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment in UN-Habitat's normative work and operational programmes in all key focus areas; and b) set up of policies and programmes needed to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment;

2. *Urges* the Executive Director to partner with civil society organizations including networks of women's leaders in local governments, private sector, media, grassroots women's and community-based organizations, NGO's as well as experts, building on their leadership in and knowledge of sustainable and gender-responsive urban development;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to make optimal use of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI) by building on its guidance regarding the overall mainstreaming of gender within the organisation and the effective integration of gender equality policies and programmes when implementing the strategic plan and programme of work;

4. *Urges* the Executive Director to align UN-Habitat's Gender Policy and Plan with the system-wide action plan (SWAP) on gender equality and women's empowerment;

5. *Invites* national and local governments to develop and strengthen their policies and programmes to effectively support, collect data disaggregated by sex and age and disseminate information on women's increased representation in local governments and women's economic contributions to cities' prosperity; and to address the causes, consequences and impacts of, and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls¹ through prevention measures, with specific attention to women's and girls' safety in private and public spaces, as defined in the Safer Cities programme and promoted by the Global Network on Safer Cities;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to allocate adequate resources for gender mainstreaming within the organization's programmes and activities.

¹ Commission on the Status of Women Fifty-seventh session Agreed Conclusions.