



Twenty-fourth session
Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

Draft resolution on Pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/221 of 19 December 2008 which, in paragraph 3, invites Governments to encourage the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization and strengthen the role and contribution of their respective local authorities in applying those principles and practice,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly supported the dissemination and implementation of the international guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services for all adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in its resolutions 21/3 of 20 April 2007 and 22/8 of 3 April 2009,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 23/17 of 15 April 2011, which encourages Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to seriously consider the need to increase urban density through intensification of land use, as part of improved urban planning, so as to promote development patterns that allow housing for all, increased job opportunities and reduced urban sprawl, as well as to reduce infrastructure investment costs, the ecological footprint of urban centres and demand for transport and energy use, and to overcome a growing social divide, spatial fragmentation and the resulting inefficient land use patterns,

Recognizing para 226 of the Rio+20 outcome document “The future we want” on the adoption of the global ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10 YFP) including its programme on sustainable buildings and construction, and the need of a supportive urban infrastructure for sustainable lifestyles,

Taking note of the Nairobi Declaration of the fourth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, adopted on 23 March 2012, by which African Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development committed themselves to, inter alia, strengthening and developing transformative national urban policies and adopting strategies for realizing smarter and more sustainable urban development through reconfiguration of space, infrastructure and flows in new urban development and retrofitting existing cities, resulting in compact, mixed use, high density development that is walkable and bicycle friendly, and transit oriented,

Considering the Executive Director’s report to the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council, HSP/ GC/24/2/Add.8, titled Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: progress report of the Executive Director, on the Coordinated implementation of guidelines on access to basic services for all and guidelines on decentralization and its recommendation to develop complementary guidelines on urban and territorial planning so as to facilitate the implementation of existing guidelines by providing a reference document for inter-sectoral and multi-level planning,

Recalling the objective of focus area two, urban planning and design, of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2014-19, that is “...to improve policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change, at the city, regional and national levels”,

1. *Encourages* Governments to initiate processes to review, strengthen and develop national urban policies where appropriate as a key strategy for national socio-economic development, to maximize the national and local benefits of urbanization, while mitigating potential adverse externalities, and as a coordination mechanism amongst different sectors and ministries;
 2. *Requests* the Executive Director in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to develop a general guiding framework for the development, where appropriate of national urban policies, based on international good experiences, to further support member states when developing and improving their urban policies;
 3. *Invites* Member States to facilitate participatory processes and a wide stakeholder participation, including local authorities and their associations, when developing, revising and implementing national urban policies, where appropriate in particular through national urban forums also as a mean for the preparation of the Habitat III Conference;
 4. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to use planned city extension methodologies to guide the sustainable development of cities experiencing rapid urban growth, to prevent slum proliferation, enhance access to basic urban services, support inclusive housing, enhance job opportunities and create a safe and healthy living environment;
 5. *Invites* the Executive Director to establish strategic partnerships towards strengthening UN-Habitat's contribution towards the implementation of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10 YFP) adopted in the Rio + 20 Conference, including its programme on sustainable buildings and construction, as well as how to promote a supportive urban infrastructure for sustainable lifestyles through national spatial frameworks, including urban rural linkages;
 6. *Invites* the international community and financial institutions to contribute adequate financial resources to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in mobilizing public investment and private capital to achieve sustainable urban development through the implementation of national urban policies and planned city extensions;
 7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.
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