



Twenty-fourth session
Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

Draft resolution on UN Habitat Regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development including the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda's call for the establishment or strengthening of cooperative mechanisms to integrate commitments and actions concerning adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development into policies, programmes and operations,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001, paragraph 65, which, *inter alia*, reiterated the need for the political will of all States and for specific action at the international level to inspire, to encourage and to strengthen existing and innovative forms of cooperation and partnership, and coordination at all levels, to contribute effectively to the improvement of housing conditions, especially in developing countries,

Calling for the acceleration of the efforts to achieve significant improvement in the implementation of targets 7c to half the population without access to water and sanitation and 7d to improve life of at least 100 million slum dwellers by year 2020 of the millennium development goals;

Taking note of the Governing Council Resolution 20/2 of 8th April 2005 which invites Governments to strengthen or establish regional consultative structures and to use these in raising the profile of issues addressed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recalling resolution 66/288 (2012) of the General Assembly, which acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and regional frameworks that can complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level;

Stressing the importance of the regional and national preparations for the third United Nations Conference for Housing and Urban Development 2016 (Habitat III);

Noting the establishment of the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States in Cairo (ROAS) based on the agreement signed between the Government of Egypt and UN-Habitat on 29 September 2010 and the subsequent endorsement of the said agreement by the League of Arab States;

Noting, with appreciation, that the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) has obtained an observer status with the Technical, Consultative, Scientific Committee of the League of Arab States Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction and that it participates regularly in the meetings of the Council.

Taking note of the decision number 9 of the 29th session of the League of Arab States' Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction, held on 18/12/2012 in Baghdad, Iraq on the establishment of the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development.

Recognizing the importance of cooperation between the League of Arab States Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction and the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS),

through the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, for achieving the goals of sustainable urbanization in the Arab States particularly since this cooperation constitutes a constant agenda item in the meetings of the Council.

Emphasizing that the members of the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development will continue their membership, active contribution, and current commitments, while enhancing the current engagement of all states, in the African Ministerial Council for Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) and the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban development (APMCHUD).

1. *Notes with appreciation*, the establishment by the League of Arab States of the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development as technical platform, and appreciates the generous offer by the Government of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to host its first session in 2014, and welcomes the establishment of other non-UN regional ministerial technical forums and arrangements
 2. *Requests* the UN Habitat Executive Director to extend his support to UN Habitat regional and thematic offices to support regional forums, including the Arab States Ministerial forum on Housing and Urban Development, and to work closely with them to achieve the aims of the Habitat Agenda, and assist them in the implementation of “the future we want document” the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference (GA/66/288 -11/09/2012);
 3. *Encourages* the exploration of the opportunities for strengthening south-south cooperation and the exchange of experiences among the Conference of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Housing and Urbanisation in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), AMCHUD, APMCHUD and the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, as well as relevant UN offices and regional arrangements;
 4. *Requests* governments of Arab States, in a position to do so, to contribute to the funding of the activities of the Arab States Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development, and likewise invites other states, to contribute to the funding of the activities of their respective forums.
 5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of this resolution to the 25th session of the Governing Council.
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