



Twenty-fourth session
Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

Draft resolution on inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Global Housing Strategy Framework Document and UN-Habitat report on resolution 23/16 submitted to the 24th session of UN-Habitat Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution adopting the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000¹, and paragraph 65 of the Habitat Agenda, which encourages the periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies with a view of creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems,

Recognizing that output-based housing policies and strategies have sometimes failed to match supply with demand, resulting in certain instances in large numbers of vacant housing units and in isolated ghost towns while in other instances there is a severe lack of adequate housing available necessitating a paradigm shift to results-based housing policies and strategies that recognize the need to integrate housing with other urban uses,

Recalling the targets set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration² (2000) and the Declaration of Cities in the New Millennium (2001) of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020,

Taking note of the reports of the fifth and sixth sessions of the World Urban Forum, highlighting the large number of events related to housing and slum upgrading demonstrating a sustained demand for UN-Habitat to respond to housing and slum upgrading issues,

Taking note of the Rabat Declaration of the International Conference on “Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge for 2020”, November 2012, where 25 member states committed to “halving the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030”,

Recognising that achievements towards the implementation of the MDG7 have been made by improving the living conditions of more than 220 million slum dwellers surpassing the target of 100 million; there has been in the meanwhile an additional 360 million slum dwellers added to the urban population globally; this therefore calls for a new approach to slum upgrading and prevention;

Recognising that slum upgrading must be undertaken as part of a broader framework of urban and housing policies, underpinned by appropriate urban planning as an important tool to prevent the formation of new slums and acknowledging that slums are no stand-alone phenomenon, and are linked to the urban poverty and inequalities, lack of mixed use urban planning and adequate land and housing options,

¹ General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988.

Welcoming efforts made by Governments implementing large scale inclusive housing programmes for diversifying access to adequate housing for all,

Acknowledging that sustainable, adequate, rights-based and inclusive housing policies and strategies are instrumental in addressing the challenge of slums and sustainable urban development as well as contributing to stimulating urban economic development and job creation,

Recognizing the progress UN-Habitat has made to date in developing the Global Housing Strategy framework document and in widely disseminating the concept and engaging in discussions with more than 600,000, national and city housing officials, professionals, academics, civil society and the private through innovative social media and advocating for the principles and methodology to more than in various international conferences and workshops,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national governments, local governments, communities, and Habitat Agenda Partners as well as regional initiatives in addressing current challenges, including urban segregation, housing shortages and the formation and growth of slums,

Embracing the paradigm shift elaborated in the Global Housing Strategy including its principles and guidelines towards achieving its outcomes at the global, national and local levels through the new urban agenda by strengthening the linkages between urban planning, neighbourhood development and housing , including also slum upgrading and prevention,

1. *Requests* UN-Habitat to pursue the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies including UNEP proposing a paradigm shift, where needed, including the integration of housing with other urban uses; encouraging “pro-poor” performance of markets; promoting systemic reforms to enable wider access to adequate housing solutions; strengthening linkages between housing, the economy, employment and poverty reduction; using sustainable building and neighbourhood designs and contributing to improving the living conditions of slum dwellers;

2. *Requests* UN-Habitat to develop normative material including the documentation of good practices from countries that are already applying the principles of the Global Housing Strategy, develop including guidelines and evaluation frameworks, to support policy makers in developing appropriate housing and slum upgrading policies that are results based, gender responsive, rights based and that encourage the development of adequate and sustainable quality and quantities of housing that are accessible and affordable to all and produced by a variety of actors including, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and housing institutions;

3. *Requests* UN-Habitat to achieve the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy, at national and local levels, by supporting requests from Member States to address the current drawbacks in housing delivery through the paradigm shift of utilizing urban planning as an entry point to housing, ensuring that housing is delivered as part of mixed urban uses, as well as achieving appropriate density, the integration of social groups and improved mobility;

4. *Invites* central and local governments to engage with UN-Habitat in global and regional platforms, including the Global Housing Strategy Network in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and regional organizations, to share evidence based knowledge, experiences and effective innovative practices in housing and slum upgrading that demonstrate the new paradigm;

5. *Invites* UN-Habitat to support national and local governments and key Habitat Agenda Partners and their urban coordination mechanisms in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating inclusive National and Local Housing Strategies;

6. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners to empower all citizens, particularly women and youth, through inclusive broad-based participatory processes to effectively contribute to the development and implementation of housing and slum upgrading strategies as well as action plans leading to security of tenure,

7. *Invites* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to report to the 25th Session of the Governing Council on progress made in the implementation of the Global Housing Strategy.