



Twenty-fourth session
Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

Draft resolution on youth and sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

Recalling with appreciation paragraph 24 of the Rio +20 outcome document “The Future We Want” which expresses deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, and notes the need for sustainable development strategies to proactively address youth employment at all levels,

Recalling also the resolution on youth and human settlements of the Governing Council 20/1 which urges governments to include young people in their national delegations to the Governing Council and to the World Urban Forum of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Further recalling the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) 2008-2013 and the Work Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme 2012-2013 which elaborated on mainstreaming youth in the normative and operational programme,

Recognizing that in absolute numbers, there are more people under the age of 25 today than ever before, totaling nearly 3 billion or half of the total population, and noting that positioning young people at the center of urban development strategies is critical to solving the problems of human settlements in developing countries,

Taking cognizance of the dynamic potential of youth in terms of their demographic dominance in our cities, their potential role in socio-economic development, their increasing engagement in the governance of our communities, cities and nations, and also their critical importance in sustainable development,

Welcoming the Secretary General’s Five-Year Action Agenda in which youth is recognized as one of the top priorities for the United Nations system and his appointment of the Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Youth, the highest ranking youth position ever appointed within the United Nations system,

Taking cognizance of the challenges of unemployment, alienation, unequal access to basic services and to opportunities, still undermining the potential of youths in many parts of the world, particularly girls and young women and those in urban centres,

Acknowledging the importance for youth of the utilization of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) at the local, national and international levels to improve their participation in governance at all levels, provide livelihoods and foster transparency and accountability,

Welcoming UN-Habitat’s ground breaking research in the area of youth such as the State of the Urban Youth 2012/2013 Report which recommends a better match between education skills and labour market needs through vocational training and the participation of the private sector; and the Global Youth-led Development report series which highlight best practices in youth-led development drawn from youth agencies funded by the Urban Youth Fund,

Considering the positive steps made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations bodies such as UNESCO and UNICEF and partners through the Inter Agency Network

on Youth Development, in which UN-Habitat was co-chair, in strengthening the youth agenda within the United Nations system and globally,

Recognizing the Government of Brazil's hosting of the High Level Panel on Youth at Rio +20, the final declaration of which supports the ongoing work on UN-Habitat and the Youth 21 initiative in developing processes to better engage youth within the United Nations system,

Noting the Final Declaration of the XVI IberoAmerican Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth which recognized the importance that participants accorded to the Youth 21 initiative and the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Youth Issues,

Noting with appreciation the World Youth Conference which took place in Mexico in August 2010,

Welcoming the initiative of the Government of Sri Lanka to host, in 2014, a world conference on youth in Colombo, with a focus on the participation and involvement of youth in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Amman Declaration and Amman Implementation Plan adopted unanimously by the Ministers of Asia Pacific Region participating in the 4th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) at Amman, Jordan, 10-12 December 2012 whose overall theme was youth, ICT and Sustainable Urban Development,

1. *Invites* the member states to undertake capacity building at the institutional level to harness the potential and the abilities of youth to positively effect change within their countries and communities;
2. *Invites* member states to develop National Urban Policies, where appropriate, with the full participation of youth at all stages to promote youth participation of youth, and also to involve youth in decision making at national and sub-national levels, and in volunteerism, skills development, employment creation and entrepreneurship development;
3. *Emphasises* the importance of gender equality, encourages gender mainstreaming in programmes related to youth, and further encourages initiatives intended to empower young women and men;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban youth with the aim of enhancing the involvement of young people in sustainable urban development, including the Global Land Tool Network and in keeping with the work programme and budget;
5. *Also Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely, within UN-Habitat's mandate, with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Youth, in the fulfilment of the Envoy's work plan (EU) which states "Increase youth accessibility (including marginalized youth), and young women and girls to the United Nations through promoting structured mechanisms for youth participation, at national, regional and international levels";
6. *Invites* governments to make financial contributions to strengthen UN-Habitat's youth programmes;
7. *Strongly encourages* the Executive Director to review the programme's Strategy on Enhancing the Engagement of Youth within UN-Habitat and to allocate adequate resources for the mainstreaming of youth within UN-Habitat's work programme and budget;
8. *Invites* the Executive Director to work with the Government of Sri Lanka for the preparation for the World Conference on Youth in 2014, especially with youth participation and technical support;
9. *Further Encourages* the Executive Director to work with member states and multilateral institutions actively working in the Latin American region to enhance the youth engagement in governance and to increase the work on youth entrepreneurship in the region leading up to the World Urban Forum 7, in Medellin, Colombia;
10. *Invites* member states to adequately reflect youth in their national budgets and programmes;
11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution in its twenty-fifth session in 2015.