Resolution 24/3 of UN-Habitat Governing Council

Inclusive and sustainable urban planning and elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 17 December 2012, which underlines that, in view of the current rapid urbanization process, the development and promotion of adequate infrastructure and basic services, as well as effective urban planning and design, are of utmost importance for the creation of socially inclusive, economically prosperous and energy-efficient cities that maximize the benefits of agglomeration economies, minimize the demand for urban mobility and transport and provide conditions necessary for job creation and urban economic growth,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and reaffirming its commitment to promoting an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements, including through supporting local authorities, increasing public awareness and enhancing the participation of urban residents, including the poor, in decision-making,

Considering the Executive Director’s report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, 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 intersectoral and multilevel planning,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration of the World Planners Congress of 2006, based on the following principles: promotion of sustainable development; achievement of integrated planning; integration of plans with budgets; planning with partners and stakeholders; observance of the subsidiarity principle; promotion of market responsiveness; ensuring access to land; development of appropriate planning tools; ensuring a pro-poor and inclusive orientation; and recognition of cultural diversity,

Recalling also the International Conference on Inclusive Urban Planning, held on 18 and 19 February 2013, in New Delhi, at which it was noted that cities in the developing countries have developed largely in an unplanned manner where market-driven responses in respect of urban lands do not automatically self-regulate,

Recognizing the challenges arising from poorly planned and managed urbanization in terms of urban poverty and deprivation, alongside the fact that urban planning needs to respond dynamically to the changing realities of urbanization, economic processes and demand-driven development challenges,

Recognizing also that there is a substantial proportion of the urban population whose livelihood spaces and activities, as well as spaces for living and working, lie outside the current systems of formal planning and sustainable urban growth and that, in that context, the inclusion of the poor in the formal planning process is crucial,

Recognizing further the need to coordinate planning policies at various levels of territories to support systems of cities,

Recalling the priority given by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to urban planning as one of the main objectives of its strategic framework and workplan,

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1 General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex
2 HSP/GC/24/2/Add.8.
1. **Urges** the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to promote responsible planning in member States through capacity-building and awareness-raising with local governments and the involvement of people, focusing on the urban poor, to create healthier and sustainable cities;

2. **Encourages** member States to promote people-oriented participatory and inclusive approaches, by involving local governments and people, in particular the urban poor, in the preparation and implementation of city plans, to promote equal access to opportunities, infrastructure and services that urban and local areas offer;

3. **Invites** member States and Habitat Agenda partners to progressively reform the regulatory and institutional frameworks for urban planning, to recognize the urban poor as stakeholders and to promote strategic partnerships with local governments in urban planning processes;

4. **Requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to initiate the elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning that will provide a global framework for improving policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, sustainable, better integrated and connected cities and territories and to present the draft guidelines to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session for approval;

5. **Encourages** the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate a set of agreed universal principles for urban and territorial planning at the city level, in particular regarding planned city extensions, at the regional and the national level, with a particular focus on national urban policies;

6. **Also encourages** the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate these principles in the framework of decentralization, as provided by the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and the guidelines on access to basic services for all;

7. **Further encourages** the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate a set of recommendations for central Governments, local authorities, civil society and experts, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to improve urban and territorial planning;

8. **Requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in the drafting of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning to engage in an inclusive consultative process with the regional offices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, national Governments, international associations of local authorities, including United Cities and Local Governments, all relevant United Nations organizations, international finance institutions, development agencies, relevant international professional associations and members of the Habitat Professional Forum, including the International Society of City and Regional Planners and non-governmental organizations, and other national and international stakeholders, in order to inform the drafting process with best practices and lessons learned from different contexts and at different scales;

9. **Invites** Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to technically and financially support the process for the elaboration of the guidelines and to host related field projects;

10. **Encourages** the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to use already planned regional and international meetings on urban development in its setting of the road map towards the guidelines;

11. **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.

8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013