Resolution GC25/LY on “Strengthening National Ownership and Operational Capacity in UN-Habitat’s Programme”

The Governing council

Recalling the General Assembly resolution A/60/1 of 16 September 2005 providing a strong support to the system-wide coherence on the implementation of the United Nations policy, operational and environmental activities, including humanitarian assistance;

Recalling further the Paris Declaration of 2 March 2005 on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action of 4 September 2008, addressing the need for scaling up for more effective aid, ownership and a better alignment of aid strategies;

Keeping in mind the Rio Declaration of 22 June 2012 on the Future we Want, recognizing that the institutional framework for sustainable development should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner and enhance implementation by, inter alia, strengthening coherence, coordination, avoiding duplication of efforts and reviewing progress in implementing sustainable development;

Recalling GA resolution A/62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, recalling also the potential of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its results matrix as the collective, coherent and integrated programming and monitoring framework for the operations of the United Nations development system at the country level, bringing increased opportunities for joint initiatives, including joint programming, and urges the United Nations development system to fully utilize such opportunities in the interest of enhancing aid efficiency and aid effectiveness;

Recalling GA resolution 67/227 reaffirming the importance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system;

Reaffirming further the need for strengthening the United Nations and its programmes with a view to enhancing coherence and efficiency in the delivery on their mandates, as well as their capacity to addressing effectively, and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the full range of development issues of which rapid urbanization, mainly in the developing world, is one of the most pressing challenges of our time;

Recognizing that the strength of the United Nations and its operational system lies in its legitimacy, at the country level, as a neutral, objective and trusted partner for both programme countries and donor countries;
Recalling UN-Habitat’s crucial role in supporting national and local governments to build capacity to promote sustainable urbanization as a driver of development, as well as advocating for a well-prepared and planned urban development;

Welcoming the new strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period of 2014-2019, providing a conducive framework for realizing a model that links normative and operational activities, and thus paving the way for achieving well defined and tangible results for a greater impact in the field;

Reaffirming UN-Habitat’s support to the United Nations efforts through the annual report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the ECOSOC resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) providing Member States with an overview of the results achieved, as well as measures and processes implemented in the follow-up to the QCPR resolution, including both the analysis of the funding of UN operational activities for development and the implementation of the QCPR framework;

Recognizing the need for appropriate tools and business processes to enable UN-Habitat to implement efficiently and effectively its operational activities in the field;

1. Requests the Executive Director to work closely with the UN Secretariat and the UN Development Group to implement the QCPR provisions on planning and budget in UN-Habitat’s programme of work, with a view to increasing substantially the efficiency of business processes in the field, so as to improve the effectiveness of development results;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to consult with the Secretary-General with a view to developing appropriate tools and business processes to meet efficiently and effectively the operational demands in the field;

3. Urges UN-Habitat to enhance its Habitat Country Programme Document mechanism, aligned more fully within the UN Development and National Development Frameworks of the relevant country as appropriate, with a view to strengthening national ownership of UN-Habitat’s country level activities;

4. Encourages UN-Habitat to work closely with national government and UN country teams to fully incorporate its work into the UNDAF model or equivalent, and to engage actively with the United Nations Delivering as One Agenda;

5. Further encourages UN-Habitat to continue its constructive collaboration with inter-governmental mechanisms such as MINURVI, AMCHUD, APMCHUD, the African Union Specialised Technical Committee responsible for Urban Development, the Arab Ministerial Conference on Housing, and others that could provide opportune vehicles for driving policy change and programming, and regional and national prioritization of urbanization;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the current resolution to the next session of the Governing Council.