Omnibus Resolution 25/LX: “Implement[ing- of] [Brazil+]the 2014/2019 Strategic Plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme [towards the Habitat III Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development] [EU+, Brazil+, United States of America+, Uganda-]”

The Governing Council,

[PP1]Recalling to its resolution 24/15 of 19 April 2013 by which it approved the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014-2019 and its work programme and budget for the biennium 2014-2015;

[PP2]Recalling further General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 17 December 2012 and its provisions, which have been reflected as core components of the substantive thematic areas of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat and underlining that, in view of the current rapid urbanization process, the development and promotion of adequate infrastructure and basic services as well as more effective urban planning and design, are of utmost importance for the creation of socially inclusive, resilient, 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 urban economic growth and job creation;

[PP3]Taking note of General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004, calling for the empowerment of non-governmental organizations, including women’s groups, youth organizations and professional groups, to play a more effective role in the implementation of UN-Habitat’s mandate;

[PP4]Further recalling resolution 20/16 of 8 April 2005 – enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance, which requests UN-Habitat, and other partners to assist in developing the capacity of civil so that it can play and effective role in local governance;

[PP5]Concerned that currently over 50 per cent of the global population lives in cities and that this share will continue to grow with a majority of the urban population currently being below the age of 30 and that sustainable urban development, therefore, has become one of the most pressing global challenges of the twenty-first century, and that Governments must consequently pay greater attention and make joint efforts to build greener, more harmonious, equitable, inclusive and environment-friendly cities;

[PP6]Recalling the targets set out in the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2001 Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium towards achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

[PP7]Recognizing that goal 7 of the Millennium Development Declaration has been achieved by improving the living conditions of more than 220 million slum dwellers, surpassing the target of 100 million, but that, in the meantime, an additional 360 million slum dwellers have been added to the global urban population, which calls for new approaches to slum prevention and upgrading;
Recognizing further that slums are not a stand-alone phenomenon but that they are linked to urban poverty, inequalities and the lack of mixed urban land use as well as inadequate land and housing options, and that slum upgrading must be part of a broader framework of urban and housing policies underpinned by urban planning as a tool to prevent the formation of new slums;

Welcoming 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 its commitment to planning and building sustainable cities and other human settlements, while underscoring the need for approaches that enhance overall coherence, reduce fragmentation and overlap, and increase effectiveness, efficiency and transparency, while strengthening coordination and cooperation;

Recognizing that training, education and capacity building programmes comprise multiple forms of knowledge creation and transfer that are fundamental to the realization of the goals set for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Urban Development (Habitat III);

Recalling its resolutions 20/1, 21/6, 22/4, 23/7, 24/11 and 24/12, emphasizing the need for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and Member States to systematically integrate youth as a partner in sustainable urbanization and as part of national delegations, and to strengthen the role of youth in all parts of the work of UN-Habitat;

Recognizing General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/188 on “The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015” and its request to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide substantive contributions to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with regard to efforts to complement the development of United Nations guidelines on safer cities;

Recalling its resolution 22/3, which reflected on the relationship between urbanization and climate change and which laid the foundation for UN-Habitat's engagement in addressing the impacts of climate change on cities and other human settlements;

Also recalling its resolution 24/3 of 19 April 2013 on “Inclusive and sustainable urban planning and elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning” that requested 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 to provide a global framework for improving policies, plans and designs for more sustainable, compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories, and to present the draft guidelines to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session for approval;

Recalling further resolution 24/3 requesting UN-Habitat to promote responsible planning in Member States through capacity-building and awareness-raising among local governments and with the involvement of people, focusing on the urban poor, to create healthier and sustainable cities, and resolution 24/9, which embraced the paradigm shift
elaborated in the Global Housing Strategy and that requested UN-Habitat to achieve the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy through supporting national and local governments and key Partners in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating inclusive national and local housing strategies;

[PP16] Recalling its resolution 24/4, which called upon the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to gradually expand the scope of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and to rename it the “Urban Basic Services Trust Fund” to increase site servicing in its work programme, including sustainable solutions for water and sanitation, energy, mobility, waste management and drainage;

[PP17] Taking note of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) held in Sendai, Japan from 14-19 March 2015, which endorsed the successor agreement to the Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction;

[PP18] Reiterating its support for the World Urban Forum and recognizing that it is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Colombia and the city of Medellin for hosting the seventh session of the Forum from 5 to 11 April 2014;

[PP19] Takes note of the Medellin Declaration, adopted at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, in which Governments, the private sector, international organizations, academia, professionals, civil society and other social actors reaffirmed the importance of cities in sustainable development;

[PP20] Recognizes the World Urban Campaign as a key platform for public, private and civil society actors to share urban solutions, and welcomes the first Urban Thinkers Campus held in Caserta in October 2014;

[PP21] Welcoming the “three legged” strategic track pursued by UN-Habitat in addressing the challenges of urbanization, integrating legal, political, urban design and financial modelling approaches in a coherent manner;

[PP22] Appreciating the ongoing efforts by UN-Habitat to speed up the implementation of its strategic plan and work programme through a set of key targeted policies and systems to improve efficiency and productivity, as well as steps to enhance accountability and transparency, and clearly articulated strategic priorities;

The following four preambular paragraphs provide a short preamble that was considered by the CPR as an alternative to the above 22 paragraphs on 27th March:

[Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the mandate of UN-Habitat, sustainable urbanisation and human settlements, including its resolution 24/15 of 19 April 2013 by which it approved the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014-2019 and its work programme and budget for the biennium 2014-2015;]

_Taking note_ of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) held in Sendai, Japan from 14-19 March 2015, which endorsed the successor agreement to the Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction;

_Appreciating_ the ongoing efforts by UN-Habitat to facilitating speed-up [EU+, Kenya-, Tanzania-] the implementation of its strategic plan and work programme through a set of key targeted policies and systems to improve efficiency and productivity, as well as steps to enhance accountability and transparency, and clearly articulated strategic priorities;]

1. [Approves–Acknowledges] [United States of America+, Japan+] the present omnibus resolution as an [effort to create an] [United States of America+] integrated compact of actions and measures[, within existing resources,] [United States of America+] required to further UN-Habitat’s work towards the objectives laid out in the Strategic Plan 2014-2019[+, and the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017] [Japan+] and thus develop strategic results and direction towards the Habitat III Conference, [critical in shaping the New Urban Agenda][Argentina+] [EU+, Uganda+]; [Delete full para: Brazil+, Uganda+] {move para to preamble: Kenya+}.

2. Requests [UN-Habitat the Executive Director] [Brazil+] to further develop [and strengthen the linkages between normative work and technical cooperation its hybrid model of normative work supporting technical cooperation] [EU+] with member states[, particularly with developing countries] [Uganda+] with a view to achieving in full the results expected from the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019;

3. [Encourages Requests] [United States of America+, Egypt+] Member States, [whether through the provision of Overseas Direct Assistance (ODA) or through the allocation of national resources] [Egypt+, EU+] to expand [their voluntary contributions and ensure] [Egypt+] the predictable financing of UN-Habitat’s Programme of Work; [Delete full para: Brazil+, Uganda+, Egypt+, Japan+, Kenya+, EU+, Argentina+, Colombia+, Mexico+]

N.B. United States of America to provide language to combine paragraphs 3 and 4.

4. Requests the Executive Director to further deepen the evidence base for results in UN-Habitat’s work, [including through the strengthening and adjustment through the effective implementation] [EU+] of Results-Based Management methodology, with a view to demonstrating [to development partners and donors] [Kenya+, Egypt+] the impact of UN-Habitat’s work; [Brazil+ delete para, Japan+]

5. Calls upon the Executive Director to continue and accelerate the development of programmes and projects that implement an integrated approach to sustainable
urbanisation, bearing in mind the [well-established strong] [United States of America+] link between sustainable development and sustainable urbanisation;

6. [Also urges] the Executive Director, [with a view to] [Uganda+, EU-] to support(ing) [Uganda+, EU+] the debate and preparation for the Habitat III conference [and the process for adoption of the New Urban Agenda, in accordance with the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat] [Uganda+, Kenya+] and the adoption of a new urban agenda, in line with the [three legged approach] [EU+, Egypt+, United States of America+] to urbanisation, to build a strong evidence-based approach of its relevance through the implementation of UN-Habitat’s programme; [USA+ delete full para]

N.B. Secretariat to provide reference for ‘three legged approach’

7. [Requests] UN-Habitat to further strengthen the implementation of the Strategic Plan through the following measures. ] [Delete full para Japan+, USA+, Brazil-, Uganda-, Kenya-, Kuwait-]

**Substantive focus and Scope**

8. **Calls upon** the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to expand its efforts in bringing the voice of local governments to the global sustainable development agenda, and related intergovernmental and UN decision making processes;

9. **Recommends** that Local Government be recognized as key actor for the achievement of sustainable development and be fully incorporated in the implementation of the outcomes of the post-2015 and Habitat III agendas, in close collaboration with member states.

10. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue to support national and local governments in the development of functionally effective legal and institutional frameworks to facilitate urban development that provide for long term objectives, are equitable and inclusive and that provide the most efficient and locally relevant solutions possible, and calls upon Member States to develop a strong legal framework around urbanization in coordination with local governments;

11. **Invites** Governments to place “urban and territorial planning” at the centre of their national development policies, with special emphasis on the needs of poor and marginalized urban groups;

12. **Calls for** the establishment of a Global Network of Planning LABs to assist cities and towns in achieving more compact, socially inclusive, integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and resilience to climate change through sharing good practices;

13. **PLACEHOLDER:** Possible language on strengthening access to financing for sustainable urbanisation by local authorities.

14. **Requests** UN-Habitat to document and share good practices, develop capacity development tools and innovative partnerships with other United Nations bodies,
notably regional economic commissions, as well as development banks, Governments, local authorities and their associations, and other Partners to support the application of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning and their adaptation to local, regional, national and supra-national circumstances;

15. **Invites** UN-Habitat to further strengthen partnerships and the community of practice on National Urban Policies as means to support national and local government develop and implement national urban policies;

16. **Requests** the Executive Director to develop and implement necessary tools and training programmes to strengthen the capacity of urban authorities to generate additional revenue from local sources, including through land and property-based taxes, and to improve municipal financial management and credit worthiness;

17. **Invites** Member States to facilitate in coordination with UN-Habitat the application of tools and training programmes to urban authorities, with a view to strengthening local government financial, human and implementation capacity;

18. **Requests** the Executive Director to forge stronger partnerships with academic and professional institutions and development banks to generate and disseminate information and knowledge on urban economy and finance;

19. **Requests** member states to incorporate an integrated approach to Housing, recognising the strong linkages between Housing and Sustainable Urbanisation, and appreciating the “Housing at the Centre” approach;

20. **Encourages** therefore UN-Habitat and member states to scale up the implementation of the Global Housing Strategy, including through the design of tools and mechanisms to ensure inclusive housing finance at national and local levels to bridge the housing affordability gap and to contribute to attaining the goal of facilitating access to adequate housing for all;

21. **Invites** Governments and their partners to continue formulate and implement national housing strategies, through the increased use of inclusive broad-based participatory processes, and by designing inclusive affordable housing solutions;

22. **PLACEHOLDER:** Strengthening of approach to slum-upgrading, building on past work of PSUP, integrating slum-upgrading models to incorporate the three legged approach, build on prevention activities;

23. **Invites** member states to commit to expand urban governance systems through empowerment of slum communities and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms equipping slum dwellers to contribute to the improvement of the living environment aiming at social upgrading through skills and capacity development, creation of job opportunities particularly for women and youth, public spaces as a concept of urban revitalization, promoting cultural diversity, and through strengthening linkages to the formal settings in rural and urban surroundings of the slum settlements;

24. **Calls upon** UN-Habitat to continue its work on urban basic services provision, including water, sanitation and waste water management, and to support the
implementation of the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative and other efforts to monitor progress under the proposed Sustainable Development Goal for Water;

25. **Further calls upon** Governments and other development partners to support the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund to promote equitable access to urban energy, mobility, water, sanitation, waste management services and drainage;

26. **Requests** Member States to support initiatives aimed at mainstreaming energy efficiency and clean energy systems into housing policies and regulations and support to the Urban Electric Mobility initiative while promoting hybrid and electric mobility as a priority in conjunction with urban policies in support of compact city planning; energy and resource efficiency; transitioning to clean sources of energy and better public transport facilities integrated with safe and attractive non-motorized transport options;

27. **Requests** UN Habitat to expand and strengthen its partnerships with humanitarian and development actors, associations of local governments, professional associations and the private sector to ensure that humanitarian responses become better adapted to the complexities of urban areas, to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations, and to help the most fragile cities become better prepared and more resilient through the capacity-building and development of surge capacity, knowledge management, guidelines and tools development, early warning mechanisms, and monitoring;

28. **PLACEHOLDER:** **Decides** to approve the establishment of an emergency response fund to support UN-Habitat’s crucial work in responding to urban needs in emergencies….

29. **Calls upon** UN-Habitat to expand its capacity for addressing urban displacement related challenges in fragile cities, including through planned urban growth and slum prevention, and contributing to global knowledge development by working closely with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council;

30. **Calls upon** the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support Member States, and local governments in particular, in implementing the successor agreement to the Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030);

31. **Calls upon** UN-Habitat to continue its efforts to monitor urban conditions and trends at the global, regional and local levels by assisting the strengthening of national government and local authority capacity to measure, monitor and report on the urban components of the SDGs and the post 2015 agenda;

32. **Requests** UN-Habitat to continue its efforts to improve knowledge of sustainable urbanization modalities at the local, national, regional and global levels through its new flagship *World Cities Report*, its regional and national state of the cities reports, its City Prosperity Initiative and through transformation of its Best Practice Programme into an interactive database, as the means of responding to the new knowledge requirements of local and metropolitan governments and to assist the formulation of integrated local and regional policies;
33. **Invites** governments and Partners to support and expand the collaboration with academic institutions and centers of excellence through the Habitat Partner University Initiative and the establishment of regional Urban Institutes of Excellence to enhance knowledge, learning and innovation for harnessing the opportunities that urbanization processes offer and to provide high-level training and capacity development to local and national governments;

34. **Requests** UN-Habitat to further strengthen the World Urban Forum as a platform to improve collective knowledge and practice on sustainable urban development, to increase collaboration amongst stakeholders, to raise awareness on the benefits of sustainable urbanisation, and to improve UN-Habitat’s effectiveness.

35. **Welcomes** the successful bid of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum in 2018, and **requests** that a strong linkage be established with the outcome of the Habitat III Conference in 2016;

**Cross-sectorial Issues**

36. **Requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue pursuing the mainstreaming of youth and gender equality perspectives in the agency’s normative work and operational programmes and to ensure that youth and gender equality and empowerment remain fundamental tenements of the preparatory process for Habitat III and of the substantive content of the New Urban Agenda;

37. **Requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to allocate adequate human and financial resources for continued youth and gender mainstreaming in the agency’s normative work and operational programmes, based on an increase in contributions from member states;

38. **Encourages** UN-Habitat to continue capturing lessons from its operational work in helping cities address the impacts of climate change, and sharing those findings with policy-makers to facilitate better-informed decision-making;

39. **Calls upon** Member States to support the Compact of Mayors and the City Climate Finance Leadership Alliance launched at the Secretary-General’s 2014 Climate Summit;

40. **Calls upon** UN-Habitat to progressively strengthen the mainstreaming of human rights-based approaches to sustainable urban development in its normative work and operational programmes, and especially in its engagement in the post-2015 discussions towards Human Rights in Cities for all;

41. **Requests** UN-Habitat to collect best practice case studies in human rights based approaches at the programme and project levels for global learning, leveraging and replicating such practices;
42. **Invites** governments and Partners to support UN-Habitat with financial resources within the context of the promotion of Human Rights in Cities for All;

**Advocacy and Partnerships**

43. **Acknowledges** the vital advocacy role of UN-Habitat in promoting the sustainable urban development, **welcomes** the increased interest of member states in challenges and opportunities by sustainable urbanisation, and **requests** the Executive Director to further promote this agenda in support of development of the New Urban Agenda ahead of the Habitat III Conference.

44. **Notes with appreciation** the hosting of the first World Cities Day by Shanghai in 2014 in the framework of the “Urban October” concept, and **requests** the Executive Director and Member States to further develop this mechanism to promote public awareness;

45. **Requests** the Executive Director to work on the engagement of new partners through the World Urban Campaign in order to identify good practices that could contribute to the sustainable urban development;

46. **Recognizes** the World Urban Campaign as a key platform for public, private and civil society actors to share urban solutions; welcomes the first Urban Thinkers Campus held in Caserta in October 2014 and requests the Executive Director to work on the engagement of new partners through the Campaign in order to identify good practices that could contribute to the sustainable urban development.

47. **Requests** the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and Member States to strengthen partnerships, and wherever possible act to build the capacity of partners, especially local authorities, civil society organisations, women, youth, disabled and old people’s organisations, private sector, professional groups, academia, research and scientific institutions, and ensure their effective engagement in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of urbanisation and human settlements policies and programmes at the local, national, regional and global levels. Lessons learned from implementation of the Presidential initiative and Strengthening Partnerships for a New African Urban Agenda should be harnessed to inform other regional processes and programmes;

48. **Calls upon** UN-Habitat to enhance UN Inter agency coordination, engagement with intergovernmental organisations, and regional development banks in the pursuit of sustainable urbanisation and human settlements development at all levels. This includes active involvement in the UN Regional Coordination Mechanisms, and support to intergovernmental bodies and Regional Economic Commissions;
Omnibus Resolution 25/LX. Rev 1.1. 27th March 2015.

49. **Requests** the Executive Director to report on the implementation of this omnibus resolution and the subsequent provisions relating to the strategic plan of UN-Habitat to the next session of the Governing Council.