Draft resolution on the theme of the Governing council: “Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda”

The Governing Council,

Acknowledging that the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference provides an opportunity to readdress the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed, and managed in an increasingly urbanizing world;

Convinced that urbanization as provided in Paragraph 4 of the New Urban Agenda is an enabling catalyst to transformative and sustainable development, as an engine of sustained and inclusive urban growth, social and cultural development, and environmental protection;

Concerned that the current trends and pattern of urbanization may not be conducive to ending poverty and hunger, reducing inequalities, promoting inclusive economic growth, achieving gender equality, improving human health and well-being, fostering resilience and protecting the environment, as they have too often resulted in urban sprawl, low productivity, segregation, exclusion and congestion;

Recognizing the complementary nature and mutually reinforcing relationship between urbanization and development, based on the understanding that these two concepts have become parallel vehicles for sustainable development, as evidenced by the strong linkages between the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other relevant goals and targets;

Further convinced that the implementation of the NUA supported by an action-oriented roadmap with concrete targets and timelines should create synergy for a global momentum contributing to attainment of related goals set forth in other recent global agreements, including the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the World Humanitarian Summit and the Summit for Refugees and Migrants;

Re-affirming the focal point role of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as outlined in paragraphs 128-129, 165, 167-168 and 171, based on its substantive leadership, stakeholder mobilization, interagency coordination, capacity building and urban advocacy;

Stressing the importance of strengthened coherence to help UN-Habitat mobilize the UN system and other partners to support Member States in the coordination of the implementation, follow-up, and review of the New Urban Agenda;

Recognizing the ongoing efforts to align the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for 2014-2019 with the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Based on the above, hereby:

1. Requests UN-Habitat and all New Urban Agenda partners to continue generate evidence-based and practical guidance for its implementation and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close collaboration with Member States, local authorities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as well as through the mobilization of experts;

2. Endorses the Action Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINU)
developed by UN-Habitat, which identifies key action areas and provides guidance to set the foundation for implementation the New Urban Agenda at local, sub-national and national levels;

3. **Encourages** UN-Habitat to further refine and roll out this framework at regional, national and subnational levels, in close consultation with member states, relevant UN agencies, IFIs, local authorities and civil society organizations.


5. **Further requests** UN-Habitat to support Member States to develop integrated strategies and implementation mechanisms for sustainable urban development at the national, regional and local levels, such as those developed in the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD) programme;

6. **Encourages** UN-Habitat to further develop the City Prosperity Initiative, the Global Sample of Cities, the National Urban Policy Database, the Urban LEX platform, the Global Municipal Finance Database and the Urban Planning and Design Lab, to monitor the progress in the implementation of both the New Urban Agenda and the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals and provide inputs for the related progress reports;

7. ** Urges** UN-Habitat to develop a new innovative strategy for a strengthened country engagement, including vertical, multi-stakeholder, issued-based and horizontal, cross-sectoral partnerships to support the rolling out of the AFINUA, and to work closely with other UN-Agencies, including within the UNDG mechanisms to facilitate inclusion of urban development issues into national policies and UNDAF;

8. **Encourages** UN-Habitat and its partners to further explore opportunities for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including in the following areas;

   **A. Promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing**

9. **Emphasizes** the importance of placing housing at the centre of national urban development and planning correlated with the supply of land, infrastructure and finance in support of socio-economic development, including job creation, income generation and poverty reduction to improve living conditions and create neighbourhoods where people live in dignity and peace;

10. **Recommends** to use an integrated approach of urban development and planning that is interscalar, intersectoral, and multistakeholder, builds on spatial, financial and regulatory tools in an inclusive way;

11. **Urges** member states to undertake further housing sector reforms and formulating housing policy, legislation and strategies that promote the realization of the right to adequate housing, and to stimulate governments commitments through programmes such as the Global Housing Strategy, the Right to Adequate Housing Programme and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme towards improving access to adequate housing and improve the lives of millions of urban dwellers;

12. **Encourages** member states to improve the access to adequate housing in cities as one of the fundamental pathways to further improvements in the dimensions of social and spatial integration of migrant populations;

13. **Requests** the Executive Director to launch a campaign to sensitize all relevant actors about opportunities to address the current challenges related to housing affordability;

   **B. Integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization**

14. **Emphasises** the importance of participatory planning and management of urban spatial development as an integrative tool for policy alignment and effective implementation of the New
Urban Agenda, as it empowers urban planning and design to establish the necessary conditions for sustainable development and lever urban dynamics for collective benefits;

15. **Encourages** member states to adopt the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning as a reference for effective planning processes at all level relevant levels creating synergy across the entire continuum of human settlements;

16. **Also encourages** member states to use UN-Habitat’s expertise to help redefine the content and process of planning and support its implementation through developing a set of tested approaches, guidelines, and tools at various scales, and reinforcing existing and establishing new partnerships, as well as promoting principles, such as mixed land use and improved connectivity, that optimize economies of scale and minimize mobility demands;

17. **Promotes** planning models and practices that integrate elements of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation, and related capacity development;

**C. Synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization**

18. **Urges** UN-Habitat to explore international and domestic mobilization of resources to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, noting that urbanization should be mainly financed by the urban value generated by planned city growth and thus facilitating the distribution of financial resources to decrease inequalities within urban centres and between urban and rural areas, as well as to promote integrated and balanced territorial development;

19. **Recommends** the use of all available funds, bilateral or multilateral, including the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds, among others, to support action-oriented policies and programmes for local and subnational governments climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, within the framework of agreed global development Agendas;

20. **Commends** UN-Habitat for establishing the Trust Fund for Urban Basic Services (UBSTF) providing a facility that allows donors to pool their contributions in order to support member countries in implementing innovative solutions to address the shortfall in basic services facing several developing countries;

21. **Encourages** UN-Habitat to collaborate with relevant UN agencies and the World Bank Group to establish a Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development (IFSUD) with the aim to catalyze effective, coordinated support to countries and cities towards the common aim of harnessing urbanization as a solution to poverty, inequality, climate change, and other barriers to sustainable development;

22. **Request** the Executive Director to report on the implementation of this resolution at the 27th session of the Governing Council.