Nineteenth session*
Nairobi, 5 - 9 May 2003
Item 10 (c) of the provisional agenda**

Coordination matters:
Matters arising out of the resolutions of major
legislative organs of the United Nations and
other intergovernmental bodies which are brought
to the attention of the Governing Council

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ORGANS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES WHICH ARE
BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report identifies matters arising out of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions which call for action by the Commission on Human Settlements, or are of direct relevance to its work. The report describes, where necessary, the activities and substantive contributions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in response to these resolutions and, where necessary, seeks guidance from the Governing Council as to further follow-up actions.

The full texts of all the resolutions mentioned in the report are being circulated to the Governing Council in document HSP/GC/19/BD/3.

* In its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. This session has been designated as the nineteenth instead of the first session of the Governing Council to signify the continuity and relationship between the Governing Council and the Commission on Human Settlements.

** HSP/GC/19/1.
I. STRENGTHENING THE MANDATE AND STATUS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND THE STATUS, ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

1. At its fifty-sixth session, on 21 December 2001, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/206 on strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in which it:

   (a) Decided, with effect from 1 January 2002 to transform the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to be known as UN-HABITAT, a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, and decided also that the Governing Council should propose its own rules of procedure on the basis of the rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements, bearing in mind the provisions of resolution 56/206, for consideration by the General Assembly;

   (b) Confirmed that the Governing Council should have the objectives, functions and responsibilities set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162 and in paragraph 222 of the Habitat Agenda;¹

   (c) Further decided that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT should serve as the Governing Council’s intersessional subsidiary body;

   (d) Decided to transform, with effect from 1 January 2002, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) into the secretariat of UN-HABITAT, to serve as the focal point for human settlements and for the coordination of human settlements activities within the United Nations system;

   (e) Affirmed the Urban Forum as a non-legislative technical body for the exchange of views among experts and the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities as an advisory body to the Executive Director;

   (f) Encouraged the Executive Director to strengthen the Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective, as set out in resolution 3327 (XXIX), of supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries; and called for the active participation and collaboration of organizations and bodies within and outside the United Nations system, including the World Bank and regional development banks, in the activities of the Programme and its Foundation, in particular with regard to the provision of seed capital and the financing of operational human settlements projects and programmes, as well as developing appropriate and innovative approaches for financing its projects and programmes; and

   (g) Welcomed the fact that the Programme, as the United Nations focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, would participate in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination at all levels of its machinery.

2. The action taken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of resolution 56/206 is detailed in the progress report of the Executive Director (HSP/GC/19/2) on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

II. SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR AN OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

3. On 8 June 2001 at its twenty-fifth special session, the General Assembly adopted resolution S-25/2, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and in which Governments:
(a) Reconfirmed their commitment to fully implement the Habitat Agenda;

(b) Acknowledged the work of UN-HABITAT and the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance, as well as the contribution of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities;

(c) Endorsed the establishment of a Habitat Agenda task manager system;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on options for reviewing and strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements.

4. The action taken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of resolution S-52/2 is detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report (HSP/GC/19/2).

5. On 21 December 2001 at its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/205, on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in which it:

(a) Reiterated that strengthened international cooperation was an essential element for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, while recalling the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020, as proposed in the “Cities without Slums” initiative, and further reaffirmed the importance of the full implementation of all the commitments undertaken in the Habitat Agenda;

(b) Recognized the overall thrust of the strategic vision of UN-HABITAT and its emphasis on the two campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance as strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

(c) Requested the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, programmes, funds and regional commissions, as well as the World Bank and regional development banks, to support fully the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

(d) Invited local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and encouraged them to participate, as appropriate, in the Urban Forum and the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, in their roles as advisory bodies to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, bearing in mind the decisions of the Commission on Human Settlements on the establishment of those two bodies;

(e) Urged the Executive Director to assess the role and funding of the regional programme activity centres, with a view to providing improved technical cooperation services to Governments to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements at all levels.

6. The actions taken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of resolution 56/205 are detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report (HSP/GC/19/2).

III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT

7. On 14 December 2001, at its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/95, on follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, in which it:

(a) Recalled its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it had adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and its resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000, in which, inter alia, it had
requested the Secretary-General to prepare a long-term “road map” towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

(b) Recommended that the “road map” submitted by the Secretary-General in his report should be considered a useful guide in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration by the United Nations system, and invited Member States, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other interested parties to consider the “road map” when formulating plans for implementing goals related to the Declaration;

(c) Invited the United Nations system, in cooperation with Member States, to adopt specific measures to give widespread publicity to the Millennium Declaration and to increase the dissemination of information on the Declaration.

8. The actions taken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of resolution 56/95 are detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report (HSP/GC/19/2).

9. On 16 December 2002, at its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/144, on follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, in which it:

(a) Recognized the uneven progress made so far in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and urged Member States to take appropriate measures with determination;

(b) Decided to consider, at its fifty-eighth session, convening a high-level plenary meeting during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and consideration of the quinquennial report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved towards implementing the Millennium Declaration;

(c) Also decided that the review progress of the implementation of the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration would be considered within the framework of the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, while taking into account the need to attach more importance, coherence and visibility to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and its review process.

10. The actions taken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of resolution 57/144 are detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report (HSP/GC/19/2).


11. On 21 December 2001, at its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/207 on implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication, in which, inter alia, it:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade; 2

(b) Reaffirmed, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depended, among other things, on good governance within each country;

(c) Called for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively all agreements and commitments adopted at the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up, as they related to the eradication of poverty, with a view to achieving tangible results;
(d) Reaffirmed that the causes of poverty should be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account the importance of the need for the empowerment of women and sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural development, productive employment, population, environment, freshwater, food security and migration, and the specific needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

(e) Stressed the importance of increasing access to control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections, for the poor, in particular women, and of improving access for all to basic social services;

(f) Emphasized the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool and called upon the international community, in particular the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions, to explore the incorporation of the microcredit approach into their programmes and also emphasized further development, as appropriate, of other microfinance instruments;

12. The actions taken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of resolution 56/207 are detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report on the activities of UN-HABITAT (HSP/GC/19/2) and in his reports on urban development strategies and shelter strategies focusing on the poor (HSP/GC/19/5), on the rural dimension of sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/19/6) and on strengthening the United Nations Habitat Human Settlements Foundation (HSP/GC/19/2/Add.4).

13. On 20 December 2002, at its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/266, on implementation of the first United Nations for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), in which, among other things, it:

(a) Stressed that eradicating poverty was the greatest global challenge facing the world today;

(b) Reaffirmed once again that the eradication of poverty must take into account the importance of sectoral strategies in areas such as human settlements, local and community development, environment and water and sanitation, among others;

(c) Recognized that the lack of adequate housing remained a pressing challenge in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in the urban areas in developing countries, and expressed its concern at the rapid growth of slum dwellers in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in Africa, stressing that unless urgent and effective measures and action were taken at the national and international levels, the number of slum dwellers, who constituted one third of the world’s urban population, would continue to increase. The General Assembly therefore emphasized the need for increased efforts with a view to significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

(d) Recognized the importance of disseminating best practices, stressed the importance of access and control over land for improving the lives of the poor, especially women, and emphasized the role of microcredit and the development of microfinance institutes as an important anti-poverty tool;

(e) Welcomed the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and urged the United Nations system to give the Partnership its support.

14. The action taken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of resolution 57/266 is detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report on the activities of UN-HABITAT (HSP/GC/19/2).
V. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AS AN INTERSESIONAL SUBSIDIARY BODY OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

15. On 24 October 2001, at its resumed substantive session of 2001, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2001/48 on the establishment of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as an intersessional subsidiary body of the Commission on Human Settlements, in which it:

(a) Approved the establishment of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as an intersessional body of the Commission on Human Settlements and endorsed the terms of reference given to it by the Commission;

(b) Decided that the Committee of Permanent Representatives could set up working groups without prior decision of the Economic and Social Council or the Commission;

(c) Asked the Commission on Human Settlements to amend its rules of procedure to take into account the establishment of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as an intersessional subsidiary body of the Commission.

16. The actions taken towards the implementation of resolution 2001/48 are detailed in the report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT during the intersessional period (HSP/GC/19/3), and the Executive Director’s report on preparation of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council (HSP/GC/19/3/Add.2).

VI. SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II) AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

17. On 20 December 2002, at its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/275, on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), in which it:

(a) Underlined the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, respectively, to improve significantly the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who have no access to and could not afford safe drinking water, and requested UN-HABITAT to support developing countries in implementing the targets in order to increase access to clean water, sanitation and adequate shelter;

(b) Acknowledged with appreciation the continuing efforts by the Executive Director to strengthen the Programme, especially those aimed at strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and invited Governments which were in a position to do so and their Habitat Agenda partners to increase their financial contributions in a predictable manner;

(c) Also invited the Executive Director to establish the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System to allow better monitoring and mutual support in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

(d) Also called upon UN-HABITAT to further support implementation of the Water for African Cities programme, as requested by NEPAD;

(e) Reiterated the agreement by Governments to intensify dialogue where possible, inter alia, through the Governing Council of the Programme, on all issues related to effective decentralization and
strengthening of local authorities in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in conformity with the legal framework and policies of each country;

(f) Welcomed increased cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and noted with interest the envisaged placement of locally recruited UN-HABITAT programme managers in selected UNDP offices in recipient countries, in consultation with the relevant Governments;

(g) Called upon UN-HABITAT, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system to increase cooperation and strengthen coordination of their activities, within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities, in order to promote the implementation of the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with a view to supporting sustainable development.

18. The actions taken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of resolution 57/275 are detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report on UN-HABITAT activities (HSP/GC/19/2), and his reports on follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (HSP/GC/19/4), on the dialogues on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities (HSP/GC/19/7), on strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (HSP/GC/19/2/Add.2) and on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (HSP/GC/19/2/Add.2).

VII. WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

19. On 20 December 2002, at its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/253, on the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in which it:

(a) Endorsed the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Decided to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

(c) Urged Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council, United Nations funds, programmes and regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely actions to ensure the effective follow-up to and implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

20. The actions taken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of resolution 57/253 are detailed in the report of the Executive Director on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (HSP/GC/19/2/Add.2).

VIII. INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

21. On 20 December 2002, at its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/270 and Corr.1, on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it:
(a) Decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the General Assembly under the chairmanship of the President of the Assembly to address this issue;

(b) Further decided that the working group would produce specific recommendations to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits and would thus contribute, among other things, to the implementation of the development goals of the Millennium Declaration;

(c) Also decided that future decisions on follow-up conferences whose ten-year anniversaries were imminent should be kept pending subject to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly on the report of the working group.

22. The integrated follow-up to and coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda will be the subject of a report to be submitted by UN-HABITAT to the Economic and Social Council at its forthcoming 2003 substantive session.

IX. FINAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990S AND SUPPORT FOR THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT

23. On 4 November 2002, at its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/7, on a final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, in which it:

(a) Expressed its disappointment at the limited progress made in reaching the objectives of the New Agenda;

(b) Welcomed NEPAD and urged the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership.

24. UN-HABITAT is responsible for supporting the NEPAD secretariat in the implementation of the plan of action of NEPAD as task leader for the cluster “Population, Urbanization and Environment”, working together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Further actions undertaken by UN-HABITAT towards the implementation of this resolution are detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report on UN-HABITAT activities (HSP/GC/19/2).

X. HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION OF FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

25. On 20 December 2002, at its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/272, on high-level intergovernmental consideration of financing for development, in which, inter alia, it:

(a) Recognized that an enabling domestic environment was vital for mobilizing resources;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the relevant institutional stakeholders and with the effective support of the United Nations secretariat, to prepare a comprehensive report on the follow-up to commitments and agreements made at the International Conference on Financing for Development;
(c) Recognized the link between financing for development and attaining internationally recognized development goals, including those of the Millennium Declaration, and underscored its firm commitment to implement the Monterrey Consensus.5

26. The action taken by UN-HABITAT to this end is detailed in the Executive Director’s progress report on UN-HABITAT activities (HSP/GC/19/2), and in the note on strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (HSP/GC/19/2/Add.4).

XI. COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA

27. On 26 July 2001, at its 2001 substantive session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2001/22, on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in which it invited the Secretary-General to implement, within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and in accordance with paragraph 66 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, the establishment of the Habitat Agenda task manager system.

28. UN-HABITAT prepared the report of the Secretary-General on the subject, contained in document E2002/48, which was submitted to the Council at its 2002 substantive session.

29. At its 2002 substantive session, on 26 July 2002, the Council adopted resolution 2002/38, on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in which it:

(a) Invited Governments to increase their financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and invited international financial institutions to assist developing countries in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements and the United Nations millennium development goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

(b) Encouraged UN-HABITAT to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in cooperation with local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other partners;

(c) Invited the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to establish a Habitat Agenda task manager system within the context of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, so as to ensure better monitoring of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and encouraged UN-HABITAT to strengthen its collaboration with the United Nations funds and programmes and the United Nations Development Group in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

30. UN-HABITAT will prepare a report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on implementation of the above resolution, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its 2003 substantive session.


