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

PRINCIPAL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-SIXTH AND FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSIONS OF RELEVANCE TO THE WORK OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Note by the secretariat

The present note contains the full texts of the resolutions which are referred to in document HSP/GC/19/13: entitled “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”.

---

* 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. FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

List of decisions

56/95 Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

56/205 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)

56/206 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)

56/207 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

II. FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

List of decisions

57/7 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

57/144 Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

57/253 World Summit on Sustainable Development


57/270 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

57/272 High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

57/275 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) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

III. TWENTY-FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

List of decisions

S-25/2 Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium
I. FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

56/95. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration as the outcome of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held at Headquarters from 6 to 8 September 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000, in which it, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a long-term “road map” towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration within the United Nations system and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session,

Reaffirming the need to maintain the will and momentum of the Millennium Summit, as well as the importance of a comprehensive and balanced approach in the implementation of and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration”;¹

2. Recommends that the “road map” be considered as a useful guide in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration by the United Nations system, and invites Member States, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other interested parties to consider the “road map” when formulating plans for implementing goals related to the Declaration;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare an annual report and a comprehensive report every five years on progress achieved by the United Nations system and Member States towards implementing the Millennium Declaration, drawing upon the “road map” and in accordance with resolution 55/162, and requests that the annual reports focus on cross-cutting and cross-sectoral issues, as well as on the major areas set forth in the “road map”, while the quinquennial comprehensive reports examine progress achieved towards implementing all the commitments made in the Declaration;

4. Invites 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;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled “Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit”.

86th plenary meeting
14 December 2001

¹ A/56/326.
56/205. **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)**

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda¹ and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements² adopted in Istanbul in 1996,

Recalling also the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly, on an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in New York from 6 to 8 June 2001,³

Stressing the importance of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,⁴ which was adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session,

Recognizing the need for renewed political will and for the mobilization and allocation of new and additional resources at the national and international levels in order to achieve full and accelerated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,

Reiterating that strengthened international cooperation is an essential element for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,

Recalling the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁵ 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,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;⁶
2. Reaffirms the importance of the full implementation of all the commitments undertaken in the Habitat Agenda;¹
3. Emphasizes the importance, at all levels of policy-making and in the context of sustainable development, of giving high priority to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,⁴ including achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, particularly in developing countries;
4. Recognizes that the overall thrust of the new strategic vision of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)⁷ and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation in respect of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development;

---

² Ibid., annex I.
⁴ See resolution S-25/2, annex.
⁵ See resolution 55/2.
⁶ A/56/477.
⁷ Formerly known as the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (see resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001).
5. Recognizes also that Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and stresses that the international community should fully implement its commitments to support Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts, by providing the requisite means of implementation and through the creation of an international enabling environment;

6. Requests 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, consistent with their respective mandates, to support fully the effective implementation at all levels of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

7. Invites 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 encourages 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 the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), bearing in mind the decisions of the Commission on Human Settlements on the establishment of those two bodies;

8. Urges the Executive Director of the Programme to assess the role and funding of the regional programme activity centres of the Programme 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 in the New Millennium at all levels;

9. Invites Governments and the Habitat Agenda partners, including local authorities, to facilitate the dissemination of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

10. Invites the Executive Director of the Programme to transmit the outcomes of the relevant intergovernmental processes relating to sustainable human settlements development to the preparatory processes of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the relevant decisions of the preparatory processes of those two conferences;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session an item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

90th plenary meeting
21 December 2001
56/206. 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)

The General Assembly,

Recalling relevant resolutions on human settlements, in particular its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 34/115 of 14 December 1979,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda\(^1\) and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements;\(^2\)

Aware of rapid urbanization trends in developing countries and related challenges in shelter provision, eradicating poverty and sustainable human settlements development,

Convinced of the need for urgent action to advance the quality of life of all people in cities and other human settlements,

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda within the United Nations system,

Recognizing that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels, to enhance the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly in developing countries, with a view to improving human settlements,

Recalling the commitments of Governments to, inter alia, promoting broad access to appropriate housing financing, increasing the supply of affordable housing and creating an enabling environment for sustainable development that will attract investment,

Recalling also its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, in which it, inter alia, designated the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as a focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and called for a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the Centre with a view to its revitalization,

Recalling further its resolutions 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 55/195 of 20 December 2000, in which it requested the Secretary-General to consider further strengthening the Centre through the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources, including additional regular budget and human resources,

Recalling agreed conclusions 2000/1 of the Economic and Social Council adopted at the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Council,\(^3\) and taking note of the conclusions of the Council at its substantive session of 2001 regarding improving inter-agency coordination in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Bearing in mind the responsibilities of the Centre, as set out in paragraph 228 of the Habitat Agenda, and the establishment of the Habitat task manager system,

Recalling the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,\(^4\) in particular paragraph 67 thereof, in which the Secretary-General was invited to report to the General 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 (Habitat), in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

---

2 Ibid., annex I.
4 Resolution S-25/2, annex.
Encouraged by the resumption by several Member States of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in response to the work undertaken by the management of the Centre to revitalize the Centre and give it a new impetus to advance the Habitat Agenda,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General 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 (Habitat), including their financial implications,

I

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Decides to transform the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, with effect from 1 January 2002, into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to be known as UN-Habitat, which will have the elements described below:

A. Governing body

Status, composition, objectives, functions and responsibilities

1. Decides to transform, with effect from 1 January 2002, 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;

2. Also decides that the Governing Council shall propose its rules of procedure on the basis of the rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements, bearing in mind the provisions of the present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly;

3. Further decides that the practices regarding the participation of Habitat Agenda partners shall be according to the relevant rules of the Economic and Social Council with regard to participation and accreditation, that the established practices of the Commission on Human Settlements shall be utilized and that such practices shall in no way create a precedent for other governing bodies of the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly;

4. Decides that the Governing Council shall be composed of fifty-eight members, to be elected by the Economic and Social Council for four-year terms on the following basis:

   (a) Sixteen seats for African States;
   (b) Thirteen seats for Asian and Pacific States;
   (c) Six seats for Eastern European States;
   (d) Ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;
   (e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States;

5. Confirms that the Governing Council shall have the objectives, functions and responsibilities set out in resolution 32/162 and in paragraph 222 of the Habitat Agenda;

6. Decides that the Governing Council shall be the intergovernmental decision-making body for the Programme;

---

5 A/56/618.
6 The first meeting of the Governing Council shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Commission on Human Settlements.
7 Existing members of the Commission on Human Settlements shall continue as members of the Governing Council until the expiration of their original terms of office.
7. Also decides that the Governing Council shall meet biennially and report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

8. Further decides that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat shall serve as the Governing Council’s intersessional subsidiary body;

B. Secretariat of the Programme

1. Decides to transform, with effect from 1 January 2002, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) into the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and confirms that the secretariat of the Programme, under the direction of the Executive Director, shall be entrusted with the responsibilities set out in paragraph 228 of the Habitat Agenda and in resolution 32/162. The UN-Habitat secretariat shall service the Governing Council and serve as the focal point for human settlements and for the coordination of human settlements activities within the United Nations system;

2. Also decides, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999, that the UN-Habitat secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director at the level of Under-Secretary-General, to be elected by the General Assembly for a term of four years upon nomination by the Secretary-General after consultation with Member States;

3. Affirms that the Urban Forum is a non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council does not meet, and that the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities is an advisory body to the Executive Director;

4. Decides that the resources for managing the Programme shall comprise the posts and budgetary resources of the Centre, without prejudice to additional regular budget and extrabudgetary resources that may become available;

II

Financing human settlements

1. Confirms that the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) shall be responsible for the management of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, with due regard to the terms of reference of the Foundation as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX);

2. Encourages 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;

3. Invites all Governments to increase their contributions to the Foundation to enhance the capacity of the Programme to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

4. Encourages the Executive Director of the Programme to continue her fund-raising appeals and initiatives for a substantial increase of Foundation resources;

5. Calls 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

---

8 The current Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) shall continue as the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) until the expiration of her original term of office.
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;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to support the Programme through the provision of
adequate regular budget resources;

III

Policy coordination

1. Reaffirms that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with
relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions, including General
Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, together with the
Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), constitute the three-
tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of the implementation of the Habitat
Agenda;

2. Emphasizes the role and importance of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular
achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements, in the activities and
programmes of the United Nations system, in particular in the context of common country assessments and
the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as the poverty reduction strategy papers
process led by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;

3. Welcomes the fact that the Programme, as the United Nations focal point for the implementation of
the Habitat Agenda, will participate in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination\textsuperscript{9} at all levels of its machinery;

4. Decides that the Programme should strengthen its collaboration with the Commission on
Sustainable Development and other relevant bodies in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as it relates
to sustainable development;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh
session on the implementation of the present resolution.

\textit{90th plenary meeting 21 December 2001}

\textsuperscript{9} Formerly known as the Administrative Committee on Coordination (see Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as well as its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), as well as the declarations and programmes of action of the major United Nations conferences and summits, their follow-up and the need for their implementation, as they relate to the eradication of poverty,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,1 adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,


Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group, in particular in African countries and the least developed countries,

Recognizing that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized and others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, resulting in increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Recognizing also that for the poverty eradication strategy to be effective it is imperative for developing countries to be integrated into the world economy and equitably share the benefits of globalization,

Recalling the commitment made by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit to eradicate extreme poverty, in particular the commitment to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Bearing in mind the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,2 the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development3 and the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,4 as well as the objectives of the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,

Recognizing that, while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain economic and social development and to achieve the development and poverty eradication goals as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty and ensure basic social protection and to promote an enabling international environment,

1 See resolution 55/2.
3 Ibid., annex II.
4 Resolution S-24/2, annex, sect. I.
Expressing concern at the recent economic slowdown, particularly its adverse impact on the economies of developing countries, which could hinder the realization of agreed development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

1. Stresses that the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) should contribute to achieving the targets of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, through decisive national action and strengthened international cooperation;

2. Reaffirms, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,1 that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country, and that it also depends on good governance at the international level, on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and on commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system;

3. Recognizes that success in meeting the objective of poverty eradication requires an enabling environment that encourages, inter alia, sustainable development, including economic growth that favours the poor and that upholds human rights, including the right to development, democratic principles and the rule of law, at all levels;

4. Also recognizes the responsibility of Governments to adopt policies aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices at the national and international levels;

5. Calls upon all countries to formulate and implement outcome-oriented national strategies and programmes, setting time-bound targets for poverty reduction, including the target of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, which requires the strengthening of national action and international cooperation;

6. Calls for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments adopted at the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up, as they relate to the eradication of poverty, with a view to achieving tangible results;

7. Stresses the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all, and in this context emphasizes the fundamental role in the eradication of poverty of strong and sustained economic growth that favours the poor, creates substantive expansion in productive opportunities and employment, increases incomes, promotes equitable income distribution and minimizes environmental degradation;

8. Also stresses the importance of increasing access to and 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;

9. Recognizes the importance of the adoption of appropriate policy responses to the challenges of globalization at the national level, in particular by pursuing sound and stable domestic policies, including sound macroeconomic and social policies, inter alia, those contributing to increased income of the poor, in order to realize the objective of the eradication of poverty;

10. Urges the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, inter alia, by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief for developing countries, and emphasizes that the international community should consider further measures that would lead to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external

---

debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries so that they can share equally in the benefits of globalization, cope with its negative effects, avoid being marginalized in the process of globalization and achieve full integration into the world economy;

11. **Reaffirms** that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to participate in decision-making with regard to the policies that affect them, the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, bearing in mind the relationship between all human rights and development, and an efficient, transparent and accountable public service and administration;

12. **Recognizes** that the eradication of poverty and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing;

13. **Reaffirms** that the causes of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, 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 disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and strengthen their assets so as to achieve social and economic development; and in this regard encourages countries to develop their national poverty reduction policies in accordance with their national priorities including, where appropriate, through poverty reduction strategy papers;

14. **Welcomes** the efforts made by the United Nations system to assign priority to the eradication of poverty and to enhance coordination, and in this regard encourages the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and other partners in development to continue to support all Member States, members of specialized agencies and United Nations observers in carrying forward their own strategy for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade;

15. **Also welcomes** the holding of the International Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and encourages Governments and stakeholders to take concrete initiatives and actions in support of financing for development;

16. **Further welcomes** the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, as a significant opportunity to renew our commitment to sustainable development, the international development goals, Agenda 21, and the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;\(^6\)

17. **Notes** the outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 13 November 2001;\(^8\)

18. **Recognizes** the importance of the expansion of international trade as an engine of growth and development and, in this context, the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries;

19. **Also recognizes** the critical need for countries to undertake economic, institutional and regulatory reforms to support wide trade liberalization and to create an enabling environment in which trade can truly serve as an engine for economic growth and development, and in this regard calls upon the

---


\(^7\) Ibid., annex I.

\(^8\) See A/C.2/56/7, annex.
international community to continue to support the capacity-building efforts of developing countries, taking into account their national circumstances;

20. **Reaffirms** that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and the international level, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

21. **Expresses its appreciation** to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and calls upon the developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for the least developed countries;

22. **Stresses** the important role played by official development assistance in complementing domestic efforts to meet the development needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and in this regard acknowledges the official development assistance made available to developing countries and the efforts that developing countries have made to eradicate poverty;

23. **Calls for** the full, speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and in this regard stresses the need for the donor community to provide the additional resources necessary to fulfil the future financial requirements of the Initiative, welcomes the agreement that financing for heavily indebted poor countries should be reviewed analytically and separately from International Development Association replenishment requirements but immediately after meetings for the thirteenth replenishment of the Association, and calls upon all donors to participate fully in this process;

24. **Calls upon** the heavily indebted poor countries to take, as soon as possible, the policy measures necessary to become eligible for the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and to reach the decision point;

25. **Welcomes** the recognition by the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries of the need to take into account worsening global growth prospects and declines in terms of trade, when updating Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative debt sustainability analysis at completion point;

26. **Recognizes** the difficulties faced by heavily indebted middle-income developing countries in meeting their external debt and debt-servicing obligations, and notes the worsening situation in some of them in the context, inter alia, of greater liquidity constraints, which may require debt treatment through various national and international measures designed to assist those countries in making their debt burden sustainable in the long term and in combating poverty effectively;

27. **Calls upon** the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in this regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

28. **Stresses** that the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015 will not be achieved without serious efforts to address the development needs of the least developed countries and to support their efforts in improving the lives of their people, and in this regard welcomes the adoption of the Brussels Declaration.  

---

9 See para. 8 of the communiqué of the Joint Ministerial Committee at its 64th meeting, held at Ottawa on 18 November 2001.

10 A/CONF.191/12.
and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, at the Third
United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001, and
calls upon the national Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to
implement fully the commitments undertaken in Brussels;

29. *Emphasizes* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes production
and self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages
Governments to adopt policies that support microcredit schemes and the development of microfinance
institutions and their capacities, and calls upon the international community, in particular the relevant
organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and international and regional financial
institutions involved in the eradication of poverty, to support and explore the incorporation of the
microcredit approach into their programmes and the further development, as appropriate, of other
microfinance instruments;

30. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa’s Development launched at Abuja in October 2001,
whose objectives are, inter alia, to promote sustained economic growth and development, including human
development, so as to eradicate poverty in Africa on the basis of African leadership and enhanced
partnership with the international community, and calls upon the developed countries and the United Nations
system to support this partnership and complement the efforts undertaken by Africa to overcome the
challenges it faces;

31. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, particularly basic
education, and training, in particular for girls, in the empowerment of those living in poverty, and in this
context welcomes the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, as well as the
strategy for poverty eradication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
and invites the organs and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund, to continue to promote the
inclusion of education in anti-poverty strategies;

32. *Recalls* the commitments of the United Nations conferences and summits to eliminate gender
disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to promote universal primary education in all
countries by 2015, and in this regard urges Member States to take immediate measures to remove obstacles
to young girls’ school attendance and to reduce drop-out rates;

33. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations
Development Programme, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the
eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with relevant United Nations
resolutions;

34. *Also reaffirms* the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment of interested developed and
developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20
per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and welcomes the efforts made to
implement the 20/20 initiative, which emphasizes that promoting access for all to basic social services is
essential for sustainable and equitable development and is an integral part of the strategy for the eradication
of poverty;

35. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired
immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic on human development, economic growth and poverty
reduction efforts in many countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries, and urges Governments and
the international community to give urgent priority to the HIV/AIDS crisis, in particular addressing the
special needs of developing countries through strengthened cooperation and assistance as well as through the

---

11 A/CONF.191/11.
13 Adopted at the thirty-first session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational,
implementation of commitments undertaken, as agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in June 2001; 14

36. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to support and participate in the global efforts for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels in order to ensure that the development and poverty reduction goals, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, are realized, and also calls upon the international community to support those efforts and to strengthen the resources available to the United Nations in order to enhance its capacity to support and coordinate all relevant initiatives in this regard and play its role of facilitator and advocate;

37. *Encourages* the continuing examination in all relevant intergovernmental forums of ways and means to integrate poverty reduction objectives and strategies into discussions on international financial and development issues;

38. *Welcomes favourably* the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication and the promotion of human and social development in developing countries, in particular among the poorest segments of their population;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with a view to establishing the fund, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report containing his recommendations on mechanisms, modalities, terms of reference, mandates and governance for the operationalization of the fund, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of contributions from Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals and the need to avoid duplication of existing United Nations funds;

40. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a comprehensive report containing an evaluation of progress made towards achieving the goals of the Decade, including best practices, lessons learned and obstacles, as well as in the achievement of the 2015 targets for poverty reduction, and recommendations for further action to achieve the 2015 targets, including the identification of resource requirements and possible sources of funding;

41. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled “Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)”.

*90th plenary meeting*
*21 December 2001*

---

14 See resolution S-26/2, annex.
II. FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

57/7. 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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Also recalling its resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 49/142 of 23 December 1994 on the New Agenda, resolution 51/32 of 6 December 1996 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda and resolution 55/216 of 21 December 2000, in which it reaffirmed its decision to conduct in 2002 the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda,

Further recalling its resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to conduct, during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda and related initiatives on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the independent high-level quality evaluation, as well as on proposals by the Secretary-General on the modalities of the future engagement of the United Nations with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, and resolution 56/508 of 27 June 2002, by which it decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should meet in substantive session for three working days, from 24 to 26 September 2002,

Mindful of its resolution 56/511 of 15 August 2002, by which it decided on the organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider how to support the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, 1

Bearing in mind the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council, on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development, 2

Cognizant of the link between the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, 3 in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and of the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

Mindful of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, 4 the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, 5 the Doha Ministerial Declaration, 6 the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, 7 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 8

---

1 A/57/304, annex.
3 See resolution 55/2.
4 A/CONF.191/11.
5 Resolution S-26/2, annex.
6 A/C.2/56/7, annex.
Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Noting with satisfaction the contribution made by individual Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee,

Also noting with satisfaction that the Group of Eight, at its summit meeting held at Kananaskis, Canada, in June 2002, devoted part of its deliberations to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, which resulted in the adoption of a Group of Eight action plan for Africa,

I

Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in particular the lessons learned about the New Agenda, as well as recommendations and proposals on the modalities for the future engagement of the United Nations with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development;

2. Takes note of the report on the independent evaluation on the New Agenda;

3. Expresses its disappointment at the limited progress made in realizing the objectives of the New Agenda;

4. Decides to bring the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to a close, and endorses the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, as decided by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001, should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa’s development;

II

Support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development

5. Welcomes the New Partnership for Africa’s Development as a programme of the African Union that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples for peace and development;

6. Reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held on 16 September 2002, to consider how to support the New Partnership, and takes note of the deliberations that took place on that occasion;

7. Urges 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 in the new spirit of partnership;

---

9 See A/57/468 and Add.1.
11 A/AC.251/9.
12 See resolution 57/2.
13 See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Plenary Meetings, 10th and 11th meetings (A/57/PV.10 and 11), and corrigendum.
8. Recognizes the importance and strongly encourages the involvement of the private sector and civil society in the implementation of the New Partnership;

III

Action by African countries and organizations

9. Welcomes the commitment of African countries to integrate the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development into their national policies and development planning frameworks, to maintain full ownership and leadership in developing and utilizing such policies and frameworks, and to mobilize domestic resources in support of the New Partnership;

10. Also welcomes the commitment of African countries to peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management, as well as their commitment to take concrete measures to strengthen mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution as embodied in the New Partnership, as an essential basis for sustainable development in Africa, and in this context welcomes the ongoing efforts of African countries to develop further the African peer review mechanism which is an important and innovative feature of the New Partnership;

11. Recognizes the importance of establishing national focal points for the New Partnership within the governmental structures of African countries, with responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the New Partnership at the national level, serving as a repository of information, and fostering a coordinated response to the New Partnership by individual countries;

12. Emphasizes the need to build and strengthen human and institutional capacities at the national, subregional and regional levels in order effectively to implement the New Partnership in all its aspects, and the need to allocate resources to this end;

13. Encourages the further integration of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership into the programmes of the regional economic communities of Africa and other subregional and regional structures and organizations, as well as programmes in favour of the African least developed countries;

14. Also encourages efforts to raise awareness of the New Partnership and to involve all African stakeholders, namely Governments, the private sector and civil society, including women’s organizations as well as community-based organizations, in the implementation of the New Partnership;

15. Welcomes the commitment of African countries to promote and enhance the role of African women in all aspects of the implementation of the New Partnership and in achieving the objectives thereof;

IV

Action by the international community

16. Urges the developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries, as internationally agreed, to implement effectively their commitment on official development assistance to the least developed countries, as contained in paragraph 83 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels on 20 May 2001, and to commit a significant share of such assistance to African countries; encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively in helping to achieve development goals and targets; and underlines the importance of undertaking an examination of the means and time frames for achieving the goals and targets;

17. Stresses the need to find a durable solution to the problem of external indebtedness of the heavily indebted poor countries in Africa, including through debt cancellation and other arrangements, and in this regard also stresses the need to explore innovative mechanisms to address comprehensively the debt problem of low and middle-income African countries, bearing in mind that external debt relief can release
resources that could be utilized in the successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, taking into account initiatives that have been taken to reduce outstanding indebtedness and the need to pursue vigorously and expeditiously debt relief measures, including within the context of the Paris Club and London Club and other relevant forums;

18. **Recognizes** the essential role of trade as an engine for economic development in Africa, and in this regard calls for improved market access for African exports within the framework of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, without prejudging the outcome of the negotiations of the World Trade Organization, and also within the framework of preferential agreements, and in this regard calls upon developed countries to assist African countries in improving their capacity, including by the removal of supply-side constraints and the promotion of diversification, which is critical to enabling them to take full advantage of such opportunities, taking into account the need to provide market access for developing countries;

19. **Calls upon** developed countries that have not yet done so to work towards the objective of duty-free and quota-free access for all exports of the least developed countries, as envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010;

20. **Also calls upon** developed countries to encourage and facilitate investment by their private sectors in Africa, to help African countries to attract investments and promote policies conducive to attracting investment, to encourage and facilitate the transfer of the technology needed to African countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and to assist in building human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the New Partnership consistent with its priorities and objectives;

21. **Further calls upon** developed countries to channel financial, technical and other types of resources towards the priorities of the New Partnership, in particular infrastructural development, health services, education, water and agriculture, in accordance with the priorities determined by each African country, and to explore ways of generating new public and private innovative sources of finance for development purposes, provided that those sources do not unduly burden developing countries, particularly in Africa, and in this regard notes the proposal for the use of special drawing rights allocations for development purposes;

22. **Recognizes** the importance of South-South cooperation and the contribution that it can make to the implementation of the New Partnership, encourages in this regard other partners to support this type of cooperation, including, as appropriate, through triangular cooperation, and considers that South-South cooperation should be viewed not as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to, the support provided by developed countries;

23. **Calls upon** the private sector and civil society outside Africa to participate in and contribute to the implementation of the New Partnership in all its aspects, including through effective partnerships between the public and private sectors;

24. **Calls upon** the United Nations system, within respective mandates, to align its activities in Africa with the priorities of the New Partnership, in accordance with the priorities determined by each African country, and urges the scaling up of resources for this purpose;

25. **Also calls upon** the United Nations system to enhance its advocacy role and public information activities in support of Africa’s development;

26. **Urges** the United Nations system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, including through close collaboration with bilateral donors in the implementation of the New Partnership in response to the needs of individual countries within the larger framework of the New Partnership;

27. **Welcomes** the actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of the New Partnership, and in this regard urges the strengthening of this process as a means of enhancing the coordinated response of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership;
28. **Calls upon** the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to strengthen further their existing coordination and programming mechanisms, in particular the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as a means of enhancing support to African countries in the implementation of the New Partnership and in support of national poverty reduction strategies and in particular, where appropriate, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers;

29. **Urges** the United Nations system to work closely with the African Union and other regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations to ensure the implementation of the programmes and priorities of the New Partnership;

30. **Encourages** the ongoing efforts of the United Nations system to enhance further the simplification and harmonization of its planning, programming, disbursement and reporting procedures at the national, subregional and regional levels so as to ease the burden on the limited capacities of African countries;

31. **Requests** the United Nations system to assist in the implementation of the New Partnership through the provision of continuing support for the efforts of African countries in human and institutional capacity-building at the national, subregional and regional levels and the mobilization of financial resources;

32. **Requests** the multilateral financial institutions to ensure that their support for Africa is compatible with the New Partnership;

33. **Calls upon** the United Nations system to strengthen its cooperation with the African Union and its Peace and Security Council and other African mechanisms in their efforts to resolve and prevent conflicts at the subregional and continental levels in order to ensure a solid basis for the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard welcomes the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa and of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict, within the framework of the Economic and Social Council;

34. **Notes** the decision of the Secretary-General to give to his Special Adviser on Africa the responsibility of coordinating and guiding the preparation of reports of the United Nations Secretariat related to Africa, and also notes the decision to transfer the resources of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries to the Adviser;

35. **Underscores** the need for a structure in the Secretariat in New York, at an appropriate level, which will review and report on support provided by the United Nations system and the international community for the New Partnership and on the coordinated implementation of outcomes of summit meetings and conferences as they relate to Africa, as well as coordinate global advocacy in support of the New Partnership, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to make proposals on the organization of such a structure within the framework of his proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005;

36. **Invites** the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, to consider how to support the objectives of the present resolution;

37. **Decides** to include a single, comprehensive item on the development of Africa, entitled “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support”, in the annual agenda of the General Assembly, beginning at its fifty-eighth session, and encourages the efforts being made towards clustering the items related to Africa’s development;

38. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit the first consolidated report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the basis of input from Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and the other stakeholders in the New Partnership, such as the private sector and civil society.

---

43rd plenary meeting
4 November 2002
57/144. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration as the outcome of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held at Headquarters from 6 to 8 September 2000, as well as its resolutions 55/162 of 14 December 2000 and 56/95 of 14 December 2001 on the follow-up,

Recognizing the important contributions made by the conferences and special sessions, in particular the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Doha, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa,

Reaffirming the importance of the implementation of and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration in a comprehensive, integrated, coordinated and balanced manner at the national, regional and international levels,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;¹

2. Recognizes the uneven progress made so far in achieving the objectives agreed upon in the Millennium Declaration, and urges Member States to continue to undertake with determination appropriate measures towards its implementation;

3. Invites the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, and encourages other interested parties, including civil society and the private sector, to continue to pursue vigorously the achievement of the objectives and goals contained in the Millennium Declaration;

4. Also invites the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to engage in the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to include in his next report information on the support to be provided by the United Nations system in this regard;

5. Calls upon Member States to support, as appropriate, the measures set forth in the thematic sections of the report on preventing armed conflict, and the treatment and prevention of major diseases, including the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), malaria and tuberculosis;

6. Decides 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 comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved towards implementing the Millennium Declaration;

7. Also decides that the review process of the implementation of the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration will 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;

8. *Invites* the United Nations system, in cooperation with Member States, to promote awareness of the Millennium Declaration, and the development goals contained therein, through increased dissemination of information and widespread publicity;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled “Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit”.

*75th plenary meeting*

*16 December 2002*
57/253. **World Summit on Sustainable Development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and 56/226 of 24 December 2001,

*Recalling also* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,1 Agenda 212 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,3

*Having considered* the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,4

*Reaffirming*, in this regard, the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration5 and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the Summit of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development6 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”)7 on 4 September 2002,

*Expressing its satisfaction* that the Summit and its Preparatory Committee provided for the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, observers and various intergovernmental organizations, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, at the highest level, as well as the major groups representing all the regions of the world,

*Reaffirming* the need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

*Reaffirming also* that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development,

*Noting with interest* the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and announced at the Summit,

*Expressing its profound gratitude* to the Governments and the peoples of Indonesia and South Africa for hosting, respectively, the fourth Preparatory Committee meeting and the Summit, for the excellent arrangements, for the hospitality extended to participants and for the facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal,

---

2 Ibid., annex II.
3 Resolution S-19/2, annex.
5 See resolution 55/2.
7 Ibid., resolution 2, annex.
1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;¹

2. Endorses the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁶ and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;⁷

3. Decides 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;⁵ and to give overall political direction to the implementation of Agenda 21² and its review;

4. Urges 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, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely actions to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

5. Encourages the implementation of partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and calls for further discussion of this matter within the Commission on Sustainable Development;

6. Calls for the implementation of the commitments, programmes and timebound targets adopted at the Summit and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions of the means of implementation, as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

7. Requests the Economic and Social Council to ensure that the Commission on Sustainable Development holds an organizational meeting of its next session in January 2003 and its session in April/May 2003;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing proposals on the modalities of the future work of the Commission, taking into account the decisions contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

9. Requests the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening systemwide coordination;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to take into full account the outcomes of the Summit, in particular the decisions made on the institutional framework for sustainable development as contained in chapter XI of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations and in his contribution to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session an item entitled “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development”, and requests the Secretary-General, at that session, to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁷8th plenary meeting
²0 December 2002
The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the International Conference on Financing for Development,1 the five-year review of the World Food Summit2 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development3 as well as the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization,4

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,5 and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,


Bearing in mind the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development6 and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,7

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development1 and in the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group, in particular in the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized and others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, resulting in increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

2 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Report of the World Food Summit: five years later, 10–13 June 2002, part one, appendix; see also A/57/499, annex.
4 A/C.2/56/7, annex.
5 See resolution 55/2.
7 Resolution S-24/2, annex.
Recognizing also that, for the poverty eradication strategy to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization,

Reaffirming that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. Stresses that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that, although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals;

2. Also stresses that the deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability;

3. Reaffirms that good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development; that, in order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries; that, to that end, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support to structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries; that efforts to reform the international financial architecture need to be sustained with greater transparency and the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes; and that a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development;

4. Also reaffirms that good governance at the national level is essential for poverty eradication and sustainable development; that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation; and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

5. Stresses that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) should contribute to achieving the targets of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, through decisive national action and strengthened international cooperation as part of an integrated approach to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

6. Reaffirms that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, as set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), taking into account the importance of the need for the empowerment of women and

8 A/57/211.
9 Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–
sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural, local and community development, productive employment, population, environment, water and sanitation, food security, energy and migration, and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve development, security and stability, and in that regard encourages countries to develop their national poverty reduction policies in accordance with their national priorities, including, where appropriate, through poverty reduction strategy papers;

7. **Stresses** the importance of increasing access to and 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;

8. **Recognizes** the major role that trade can play as an engine of growth and development and in eradicating poverty, and in that context stresses the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries;

9. **Welcomes** the decision contained in the Ministerial Declaration, adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization,\(^4\) to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the work programme adopted at the Conference, including through enhanced market access for products of interest to developing countries;

10. **Recognizes** that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that, to build support for official development assistance, cooperation is necessary to further improve policies and development strategies to enhance aid effectiveness, both nationally and internationally, and in that regard requests those countries that made announcements of increased official development assistance at the International Conference on Financing for Development to make those resources available as soon as possible;

11. **Urges** developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts to reach the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,\(^10\) encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

12. **Recognizes** that an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector, and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, and that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

13. **Notes with great concern** the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of the heavily indebted poor developing countries as constituting an element that adversely affects their sustainable development efforts, noting in that regard that the total debt stock of the developing countries rose from

---

\(^4\) September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

\(^10\) See A/CONF.191/11.
$1,458 billion in 1990 to $2,442 billion in 2001, recognizes that creditors and debtors must share the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations and that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development, including poverty reduction and the achievement of the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, and in that regard urges countries to direct those resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards those objectives;

14. **Calls for** the full, speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, encourages the participation in the Initiative of all creditors that have not yet participated, and stresses in that regard the need for the donor community to provide the additional resources necessary to fulfil the future financial requirements of the Initiative, welcomes, therefore, the agreement that financing for heavily indebted poor countries should be reviewed analytically and separately from International Development Association replenishment requirements, but back-to-back with meetings for the fourteenth replenishment of the Association, and calls upon all donors to participate fully in that process;

15. **Calls upon** the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in that regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

16. **Recognizes** the responsibility of all Governments to adopt policies aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices at the national and international levels;

17. **Also recognizes** the importance of disseminating best practices for the reduction of poverty in its various dimensions, taking into account the need to adapt those best practices to suit the social, economic, cultural and historical conditions of each country;

18. **Expresses its concern** that, despite a decrease in the number of undernourished people in some developing countries during the 1990s, nearly two thirds of those countries recorded either no change or an increase in the number of undernourished people, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and that, at current rates of progress, the target to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015 is likely to be achieved in some regions but not in others, including sub-Saharan Africa, unless substantially strengthened efforts are made at all levels in order to achieve food security;

19. **Emphasizes** the link between poverty eradication and improving access to safe drinking water, and stresses in that regard the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, as reaffirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

20. **Recognizes** that the lack of adequate housing remains a pressing challenge in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in the urban areas in developing countries, expresses its concern at the rapid growth in the number of slum dwellers in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in Africa, stresses that unless urgent and effective measures and actions are taken at the national and international levels, the number of slum dwellers, who constitute one third of the world’s urban population, will continue to increase, and emphasizes the need for increased efforts, with a view to significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

21. **Welcomes** the efforts made to implement the 20/20 initiative, which emphasizes that promoting access for all to basic social services is essential for sustainable and equitable development and is an integral part of the strategy for the eradication of poverty;
22. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, in particular basic education and training, especially for girls, in the empowerment of those living in poverty, reaffirms in that context the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,\(^{11}\) and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for poverty eradication, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education For All programmes as a tool to achieve, inter alia, universal primary education by 2015;

23. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in many countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries, and urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to the HIV/AIDS crisis by addressing, in particular, the special needs of developing countries through strengthened cooperation and assistance as well as through the implementation of commitments undertaken, as agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in June 2001;\(^{12}\)

24. *Emphasizes* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes production and self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support microcredit schemes and the development of microfinance institutions and their capacities;

25. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

26. *Stresses*, as recognized in the Millennium Declaration, the importance of meeting the special needs of Africa, where poverty remains a major challenge and where most countries have not benefitted fully from the opportunities of globalization, which has further exacerbated the continent’s marginalization;

27. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa’s Development\(^ {13}\) as a programme of the African Union, the primary objective of which is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development on the basis of African ownership and leadership and enhanced partnership with the international community, and urges the developed countries and the United Nations system to support the Partnership and complement the efforts undertaken by Africa to overcome the challenges it faces;

28. *Stresses* that the goal of halving the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day by 2015 will not be achieved without serious efforts to address the development needs of the least developed countries and to support their efforts to improve the lives of their people, and in that regard calls upon the national Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to implement fully the commitments contained in the Brussels Declaration\(^ {14}\) and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,\(^ {10}\) adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

29. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;


\(^{12}\) Resolution S-26/2, annex.

\(^{13}\) A/57/304, annex.

\(^{14}\) A/CONF.191/12.
30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled “Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)”.

*78th plenary meeting*

*20 December 2002*
57/270. **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**

The General Assembly,

*Recalling* its resolutions on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, particularly its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996,


*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit,¹

*Reaffirming* that the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration² and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, provide a comprehensive basis for action at the national, regional and international levels with the key objectives of poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, sustainable development and improvement of the living conditions of people everywhere,

*Reaffirming also* that, while each United Nations conference has its thematic unity, major United Nations conferences and summits should be viewed as interlinked and contributing to an integrated framework for the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to a global partnership for development,

*Recognizing* the need to continue efforts to use the existing structure, namely, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery, for coordinated and integrated follow-up to and implementation of the commitments agreed upon at the Millennium Summit and other major United Nations conferences and summits, so as to enhance coordination as well as effectiveness and efficiency of actions at all levels,

*Reiterating* the need to strengthen the role of the General Assembly as the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to coordinated and integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

*Reaffirming* that the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and thus to promote coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

*Emphasizing* that the relevant functional commissions and, as appropriate, other relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, within their mandates, must fulfil their responsibilities as specified in the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits, should further enhance their role as the main forums for expert follow-up and review of major United Nations conferences and summits and, in this regard, must strengthen their efforts to enhance interagency collaboration and coordination to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

*Recognizing* that the process of integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits should not include renegotiation of any outcomes of those conferences, including their specific institutional arrangements for follow-up,

---

¹ A/57/75-E/2002/57.
² See resolution 55/2.
1. **Decides** to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the General Assembly under the chairmanship of the President of the Assembly, with two vicechairmen to be elected by the working group;

2. **Also decides** that the work of the working group should be consistent with the provisions of resolution 50/227 and the follow-up mechanisms decided upon by the respective United Nations conferences and summits and should respect the interlinked nature of their outcomes as well as the thematic unity of each conference, and emphasizes that cross-sectoral thematic issues for further consideration throughout the existing structure should be decided upon at the intergovernmental level and should focus on implementation, bearing in mind that the process of integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields should be fair and balanced and should respect the principle of multilateralism and the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. **Further decides** that the working group will produce concrete recommendations to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and will thus contribute to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, bearing in mind the continuing reform process of the United Nations and resolution 50/227, as well as the views expressed by the Member States on this question;

4. **Decides** that the working group will also consider the work of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees relevant to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields as well as the modalities of the reports presented to the General Assembly, bearing in mind the respective roles of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and subsidiary organs;

5. **Also decides** that the working group will submit proposals on how best to address the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including its format and periodicity, bearing in mind the need to recognize the active role of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits;

6. **Further decides** that future decisions on follow-up to conferences whose ten-year anniversaries are imminent shall be kept pending subject to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly on the report of the working group;

7. **Decides** that the working group will consider how to ensure that the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits are integrated into the programmes of work of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and are taken fully into account, as relevant, in the operational work and country frameworks of the organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with national development objectives and priorities, and requests the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group to contribute to the reflection on integrated conference follow-up;

8. **Also decides** that the working group will commence its substantive work during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, no later than January 2003, and will submit its report before 27 June 2003, for consideration by the General Assembly and action before the close of the fifty-seventh session in 2003;

9. **Further decides** that at its first meeting the working group will consider its work programme, including the issue of the periodicity and duration of its meetings within the time boundaries established in paragraph 8 above;
10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session an item entitled “Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields” and to consider it directly in plenary meeting.

78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002
57/272. High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which was adopted on 22 March 2002,¹

Welcoming the initiatives and efforts, on the part of relevant actors in the financing for development process from the public and private sectors and from civil society, to stay fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, so as to ensure proper follow-up to the implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the Conference, and to continue to build bridges between development, finance and trade organizations and initiatives, within the framework of the holistic agenda of the Conference,

Recognizing the link between financing for development and attaining internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² in measuring development progress and helping to guide development priorities, as well as achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the international financial system should support sustainable development, sustained economic growth and poverty eradication and should allow for the mobilization, in a coherent manner, of all sources of financing for development, including the mobilization of domestic resources, international flows, trade, official development assistance and external debt relief,

Taking note of the communiqués of the joint International Monetary Fund/World Bank Development Committee of 21 April and 28 September 2002 and the communiqué of the International Monetary and Financial Committee of the International Monetary Fund of 28 September 2002,

1. Underscores its firm commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,¹ and, in that regard, to promoting a holistic approach to the interconnected national, international and systemic challenges of financing for development, in active partnership with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant institutional stakeholders, civil society and the private sector, including through collective and coherent action in every area of the Consensus;

2. Reiterates that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country and at the international level. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation. Transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and the commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system are equally essential;

3. Expresses its concern about the difficulties of the present world economic situation, stresses the importance of confronting it through strong cooperative efforts by all countries and institutions, and underlines the importance of continued efforts to improve global economic governance and strengthen the United Nations leadership role in promoting development;

4. Calls for the integrated consideration of trade, finance, investment, technology transfer and development issues, and, to that end, re-emphasizes the urgency of coherent action by the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, as appropriate, along with the action of

² See resolution 55/2.
Governments, to promote equitable and broad sharing in the benefits of globalization, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;

5. Recognizes that an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector, and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance. Efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

6. Encourages all Governments to combat corruption, bribery, money laundering and the transfer of illicitly acquired funds and assets and to work for the return of such funds and assets to the countries of origin, and welcomes actions taken in that regard at the national and international levels;

7. Stresses the need for structural reforms to strengthen corporate governance, accounting and auditing, in particular when inadequate policies can have systemic consequences;

8. Stresses also the importance of strong domestic institutions that promote business activities and financial stability for the achievement of growth and development, inter alia, through sound macroeconomic policies and policies aimed at strengthening the regulatory systems of the corporate, financial and banking sectors;

9. Considers that, in the context of the current world economic situation, the multilateral trading system should be reinforced by achieving a balanced outcome of the Doha negotiations which responds to the interests of all the members of the World Trade Organization, in particular the developing countries, by giving concrete shape to the development-related provisions of the work programme of the World Trade Organization and by working to ensure that the concerns of developing countries, in particular in terms of implementation issues and special and differential treatment, are properly and effectively addressed in accordance with the Ministerial Declaration adopted at Doha, as amended by the action of the General Council of the World Trade Organization;

10. Recognizes that trade rules and issues in the post-Doha framework should have a clear development content;

11. Expresses its concern about the adoption of a number of unilateral actions that are not consistent with World Trade Organization rules, that harm the exports of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, and that have a considerable bearing on the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations and on the achievement and further enhancement of the development dimension of the trade negotiations;

12. Welcomes the commitments announced at the International Conference on Financing for Development to increase the levels and effectiveness of official development assistance, looks forward to the early availability of the resources committed in keeping with the announced time frames, urges developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets;

13. Reaffirms the determination, as expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term;

3 See A/C.2/56/7, annex.
14. **Reaffirms also** that reviews of debt sustainability should also bear in mind the impact of debt relief on progress made towards the achievement of the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and that debt sustainability analysis at the completion point needs to take into account any worsening global growth prospects and declining terms of trade; in addition, efforts to strengthen the transparency and integrity of debt sustainability analysis should continue;

15. **Stresses,** in the consideration of any new debt resolution mechanism, the importance of a broad discussion in the appropriate forums, with the participation of all interested actors, welcomes the steps taken by the international financial institutions to take into account social aspects and the borrowing costs for developing countries, encourages them to continue their efforts in that regard, and reiterates that the adoption of such a mechanism should not preclude emergency financing in times of crisis;

16. **Stresses also** the special importance of creating an enabling international economic environment through strong cooperative efforts by all countries and institutions to promote equitable economic development in a world economy that benefits all people, and in this context invites developed countries, in particular major industrialized countries, which have significant weight in influencing world economic growth, when formulating their macroeconomic policies, to take into account whether their effects in terms of the external economic environment would be favourable to growth and development;

17. **Notes** the impact of financial crisis or risk of contagion in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, regardless of their size, and in this regard underlines the need to ensure that the international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, have a suitable array of financial facilities and resources to respond in a timely and appropriate way, in accordance with their policies;

18. **Takes note** of the communiqué of the Development Committee of 28 September 2002, in particular paragraph 10, on the need to identify pragmatic and innovative ways to further enhance the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international decision-making and norm-setting, and encourages all relevant international financial institutions to take concrete measures towards this end;

19. **Invites** the International Monetary Fund to continue its work on quotas, and welcomes the continuing consideration by the Fund of its quota review and the reiteration by the International Monetary and Financial Committee that the Fund should have adequate resources to fulfil its financial responsibilities and that quotas should reflect developments in the international economy;

20. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant institutional stakeholders, fully utilizing the mechanisms of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, with the effective support of the United Nations Secretariat and building on the successful experience in the preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development, to prepare a comprehensive report on the implementation of and follow-up to commitments and agreements made at the Conference, focusing on progress achieved in all areas covered by the Monterrey Consensus;

21. **Decides** that the preparatory work and reports of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as the preparatory process of the General Assembly high-level dialogue, should serve as inputs in the preparation of the comprehensive report, which would be submitted on an annual basis to the General Assembly, under the agenda item on follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as to the biennial high-level dialogue of the General Assembly;

22. **Stresses** the importance of making progress on all fronts and enhancing the coherence and synergies of all development efforts, and, in the spirit of the strategic partnership launched at Monterrey, requests the President of the General Assembly to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank and the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund before the 2003 spring meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the
Development Committee, as well as to the attention of the General Council of the World Trade Organization, as an input to the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to be held in April 2003 and the subsequent high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on financing for development to be held in the second half of 2003.

78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002
57/275. **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) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

The General Assembly,


Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/38 of 26 July 2002,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda¹ and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,²

Emphasizing the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration³ of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),⁵ as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,⁶

Acknowledging the holding of the first session of the World Urban Forum, a non-legislative technical forum in which experts are able to exchange views in years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) does not meet, and the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat,

Welcoming the efforts made by UN-Habitat to forge partnerships with other United Nations funds and programmes and with international financial institutions, such as the World Bank,

Recognizing that the overall thrust of the new strategic vision of UN-Habitat and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation in respect of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development,

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing the need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in the new millennium to ensure timely, effective and concrete results in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals,

---

² Resolution S-25/2, annex.
³ See resolution 55/2.
⁵ Ibid., resolution 2, annex.
including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, particularly in developing countries,

Reiterating the call to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to increase her efforts 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,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General 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), 7 on the strengthening of UN-Habitat, 8 and on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, 9

1. Underlines the commitments made by Governments to implement the Habitat Agenda 1 and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, 2 and to the goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration; 3

2. Underlines also the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the commitment to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, and requests the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to support developing countries in implementing the targets in order to increase access to clean water, sanitation and adequate shelter;

3. Encourages Member States to strengthen and institutionalize national Habitat committees and other mechanisms, as appropriate, as broad-based platforms for the preparation and implementation of their plans of action based on the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

4. Urges all countries to strengthen and mainstream shelter and human settlements development activities in their development planning frameworks;

5. Recognizes that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and stresses that the international community should fully implement its commitments to support the Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts, through the provision of requisite resources, capacity-building, transfer of technology and the creation of an international enabling environment;

6. Emphasizes the importance, at all levels of policy-making and in the context of sustainable development, of giving high priority to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, including achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, particularly in developing countries;

7. Requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to further strengthen her efforts to make the Cities Alliance initiative an effective means for the implementation of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, namely, adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;

---

7 A/57/271.
8 A/57/272.
8. **Encourages** UN-Habitat to continue to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, including through promoting partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners so as to empower them, within the legal framework and according to the conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in shelter provision and in sustainable human settlements development;

9. **Reiterates** the invitation to Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to facilitate the dissemination of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

10. **Also reiterates** the agreement by Governments to intensify dialogue where possible, inter alia, through the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, 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;

11. **Encourages** Governments and their Habitat Agenda partners to evaluate and report to UN-Habitat on their implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

12. **Welcomes** increased cooperation between UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme, and notes with interest the envisaged placement of locally recruited UN-Habitat programme managers in selected United Nations Development Programme offices in recipient countries, in consultation with the relevant Governments;

13. **Calls upon** UN-Habitat, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system to increase cooperation in 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;

14. **Reiterates** the invitation to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to implement, 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 to allow better monitoring and mutual reinforcement of actions taken by international agencies in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

15. **Calls upon** UN-Habitat to further support the implementation of the Water for African Cities programme, as requested by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development;

16. **Acknowledges with appreciation** the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director to strengthen UN-Habitat, and encourages her to continue such efforts;

17. **Invites** Governments and relevant international institutions and agencies to increase their support to UN-Habitat in order to enhance its capacity to function as a fully fledged United Nations programme;

18. **Acknowledges with appreciation** the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and invites Governments that are in a position to do so, and their Habitat Agenda partners, to increase their financial contributions to the Foundation in a predictable manner;

19. **Requests** the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery of necessary services to UN-Habitat and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi in an effective manner;
20. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a consolidated report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly”.

78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002
TWENTY-FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

S-25/2. Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium

The General Assembly

Adopts the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium

We, the representatives of Governments, being guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, meeting at the special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to recognize progress and to identify obstacles and emerging issues, reaffirm our will and commitment to implement fully the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda and decide on further initiatives, in the spirit of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda will remain the basic framework for sustainable human settlements development in the years to come.

Therefore, we:

A. Renewing the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

1. Reaffirm that human beings are at the centre of our concern for sustainable development and that they are the basis for our actions taken in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. Wish to stress that this is a special moment in the development of human settlements, when half of the world’s 6 billion people will be living in cities and the world is facing the unprecedented growth of urban population, mainly in the developing world. The decisions we make now will have far-reaching consequences. We note with great concern that one fourth of the world’s urban population is living below the poverty line. In many cities, which are confronted with rapid growth, environmental problems and the slow pace of economic development, it has not been possible to meet the challenges of generating sufficient employment, providing adequate housing and meeting the basic needs of citizens;

3. Re-emphasize that rural and urban areas are economically, socially and environmentally interdependent and that cities and towns are engines of growth contributing to the development of both rural and urban human settlements. Half of the world’s inhabitants live in rural settlements and in Africa and Asia the population in the rural areas represents a majority. Integrated physical planning and balanced attention to rural and urban living conditions are of crucial importance for all nations. Full advantage must be taken of the complementary contributions and linkages between rural and urban areas by giving appropriate attention to their different economic, social and environmental requirements. While addressing urban poverty, it is also essential to eradicate rural poverty and to improve living conditions, as well as to create employment and educational opportunities in rural settlements and small and medium-sized cities and towns in rural areas;

4. Reconfirm our determination to address at all levels the deteriorating environmental conditions that threaten the health and quality of life of billions of people. Some activities at the local

---


2 Ibid., annex I.

3 See resolution 55/2.
level that degrade the environment have implications at the global level and need to be addressed in the context of human settlements;

5. **Reconfirm** the goals and principles of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, as set out in the Habitat Agenda,\(^4\) which form the basis of our commitments;

6. **Renew and reaffirm** the commitments we made in the Habitat Agenda concerning adequate shelter for all, sustainable human settlements, enablement and participation, gender equality, financing shelter and human settlements, international cooperation and assessing progress;\(^5\)

---

**B. Welcoming progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda**

7. **Commend** the efforts by all levels of government, the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and Habitat Agenda partners, as well as those by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and welcome the progress made thus far towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. We note with appreciation the national and regional reports on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda\(^6\) and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,\(^7\) taking into account the specific priorities and objectives of each region, and in conformity with the legal framework and national policies of each country;

8. **Welcome** the decision by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session\(^8\) that the Special Rapporteur whose mandate would focus on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living should, as a part of his mandate, develop a regular dialogue and discuss possible areas of collaboration with Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, international organizations in the field of housing rights, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions, and should make recommendations on the realization of the rights relevant to the mandate;

9. **Also take note** with satisfaction of the growing awareness of the need to address, in an integrated manner, poverty, homelessness, unemployment, lack of basic services, exclusion of women and children and of marginalized groups, including indigenous communities, and social fragmentation, in order to achieve better, more liveable and inclusive human settlements worldwide. Governments, international organizations and members of civil society have made continuous efforts to address those problems;

10. **Take note** of the development of integrated and participatory approaches to urban environmental planning and management in relation to the implementation of Agenda 21.\(^9\) In this regard, we welcome the support provided by many Governments to mechanisms for consultations and partnerships among interested parties to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local Agenda 21 initiatives;

11. **Welcome** the increasing economic role of cities and towns in our globalizing world and the progress made in forging public-private partnerships and strengthening small enterprises and microenterprises. Cities and towns hold the potential to maximize the benefits and to offset the negative consequences of globalization. Well-managed cities can provide an economic environment

---


\(^5\) Ibid., annex II, chap. III.

\(^6\) The reports were provided to participants in the special session as resource documents. See www.unchs.org/istanbul+5/nationalr.htm.

\(^7\) A/S-25/3.


capable of generating employment opportunities, as well as offering a diversity of goods and services;

12. **Welcome** the efforts made so far by many developing countries in effecting decentralization in the management of cities as a means of strengthening the operation of local authorities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

13. **Welcome** the contributions of national and other Governments, which have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through their laws, policies and programmes;

14. **Appreciate** the important contributions made by local authorities worldwide in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through concerted efforts and strengthened partnerships between Governments at all levels, resulting in the improved condition of human settlements, including improved urban governance. Broad-based participation in decision-making, together with accountability, simplicity of procedures and transparency, is imperative to prevent corruption and to promote public interests. In this regard, we note with satisfaction the increased priority given to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to the principles of good governance at all levels;

15. **Recognize** the important work done by the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. At the same time, we encourage them to continue to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

16. **Recognize** that the overall thrust of the new strategic vision of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation on adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and express our appreciation for its contributions to the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly;

C. **Recognizing gaps and obstacles**

17. **Take note** with great concern of the current conditions of human settlements worldwide, especially as documented in the third global report on human settlements. Although Governments and their Habitat Agenda partners have continued efforts to fulfil their commitments, widespread poverty remains the core obstacle, and environmental conditions need significant improvement in many countries. Critically, the majority of people living in poverty still lack legal security of tenure for their dwellings, while others lack even basic shelter. Thus, serious impediments to sustainable human settlements development still persist;

18. **Note with concern** that one of the basic obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda is the discrepancy between the commitments made at Istanbul and the political will to fulfil them. We also acknowledge the gaps in both public information and awareness-raising as impediments;

19. **Recognize** that serious financial constraints give rise to acute problems of adequate shelter, housing and human settlements in countries that receive an influx of refugees as a result of ongoing conflicts, human-made and natural disasters and other calamities taking place in neighbouring countries;

20. **Acknowledge** the gaps in shelter and urban policies that have limited the opportunities for participation and partnership and have made it difficult to convert best practices into good policies. We are also deeply concerned that many women still do not participate fully, on the basis of equality, in all spheres of society, while at the same time suffering to a greater extent the effects of poverty;

---

21. Also acknowledge the fact that the urbanization process in the world has resulted in metropolitan concentrations that extend over the administrative boundaries of the original cities, expand over two or more administrative units, have local authorities with different capacities and priorities and suffer from an absence of coordination;

22. Recognize major obstacles that prevent the efficient functioning of land and housing markets to ensure an adequate supply of shelter. Actions recommended in paragraph 76 of the Habitat Agenda have not been fully implemented;

23. Have identified considerable obstacles associated with limited economic, technological and institutional capacities at all levels of government, in particular in the developing and the least developed countries. We recognize the absence of comprehensive and inclusive policies for capacity-building institutions and their networking;

24. Have also identified economic policies and financial market constraints at all levels that have prevented the mobilization of adequate resources to meet the sustainable human settlements needs of many countries;

25. Recognize that the mobilization of domestic resources as well as sound national policies are crucial for financing shelter and human settlements. Although Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, international support is likewise essential. We regret that international cooperation in shelter and human settlements development has not been enhanced significantly since 1996, which is a growing cause for concern. We also regret that many countries have been unable to make sufficient use of market mechanisms in support of their financial needs for shelter and human settlements development;

26. Recognize that there is unequal access to information and communication technologies, in particular in the developing countries, which has resulted in the inability of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to make the best use of those resources in implementing the Habitat Agenda;

27. Further resolve to take concerted action against international terrorism, which causes serious obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

28. Recognize that the consequences of those gaps and obstacles are serious: for the first time in human history a majority of the world’s 6 billion people will live in cities. Many people have experienced a deterioration in their living environment, not an improvement. The gaps and obstacles encountered in the past five years have slowed down global progress towards sustainable human settlements development. It is essential that actions are taken to ensure that the Habitat Agenda is now translated into policy and practice in every country;

D. Taking further actions

29. Affirm our commitment to overcoming obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially poverty, which we consider to be the major underlying factor, and to strengthening and safeguarding national and international enabling environments, and to that end pledge to accelerate our efforts to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Determined to give new momentum to our efforts to improve the condition of human settlements, we here set out further initiatives for achieving those ends. At the start of the new millennium, aware of our responsibilities towards future generations, we are strongly committed to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. We invite people from all countries and all walks of life, as well as the international community, to join in renewed dedication to our shared vision for a more just and equitable world;

30. Reaffirm that the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses and husband and wife should be equal partners. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration,
unification, preservation, improvement and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood;\(^{11}\)

31. *Resolve*, within the framework, inter alia, of a poverty eradication strategy, to encourage social and economic policies that are designed to meet the housing needs of families and their individual members, with particular attention to the care of children;\(^{12}\)

32. *Also resolve* to promote changes in attitudes, structures, policies, laws and other practices relating to gender in order to eliminate all obstacles to human dignity and equality in family and society and to promote the full and equal participation of women and men, inter alia, in the formulation and implementation of and follow-up to public policies and programmes;\(^{13}\)

33. *Invite* Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations to strengthen the quality and consistency of their support for poverty eradication and sustainable human settlements development, in particular in the least developed countries. This in turn requires not only renewed political will, but also the mobilization and allocation of new and additional resources at both the national and international levels. We *urge* the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief;

34. *Emphasize* that the international community should consider further measures, as appropriate, that would lead to durable solutions to the external debt burden of developing countries;

35. *Express*, in this connection, our appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and call upon developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target of 0.7 per cent as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for the least developed countries;

36. *Request* the international community to support strongly poverty eradication, and welcome the ongoing consultations by the Secretary-General on the establishment of a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication to finance and realize, inter alia, the social policies and programmes of the Habitat Agenda to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the contributions;

37. *Resolve* to raise awareness about human settlements challenges and solutions through full and open dissemination of information, and commit ourselves to renew and foster political will at all levels;

38. *Also resolve* to empower the poor and vulnerable, inter alia, by promoting greater security of tenure and enabling better access to information and good practices, including awareness of legal rights. We aim to develop specific policies to overcome growing urban poverty;

39. *Further resolve* to empower local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners, within the legal framework and according to the conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in the provision of shelter and in sustainable human settlements development. This can be achieved through effective decentralization, where appropriate, of responsibilities, policy management, decision-making authority and sufficient resources, where possible including revenue-collection authority to local authorities, through participation and local democracy as well as through international cooperation and partnerships. In particular, the effective role of women in decision-making in local authorities should be ensured, if necessary through


\(^{12}\) Ibid., para. 40 (4).

\(^{13}\) Ibid., para. 119 (c).
appropriate mechanisms. In this context, we agree to intensify our dialogue, where possible, including through the Commission on Human Settlements, on all issues related to effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in conformity with the legal framework and policies of each country;

40. Encourage authorities within metropolitan areas to develop mechanisms and to foster, where appropriate, legal, financial, administrative, planning and coordination instruments, in order to achieve more equitable, ordered and functional cities;

41. Resolve to build capacities and networks to enable all partners to play an effective role in shelter and human settlements development. The management of urbanization processes requires strong and accountable public institutions able to provide an effective framework in which everybody has access to basic services. Capacity-building needs to be directed towards, inter alia, supporting decentralization and participatory urban management processes. We also pledge to strengthen the institutions and legal frameworks that assist and allow broad-based participation in decision-making and in the implementation of human settlements strategies, policies and programmes;

42. Acknowledge, value and support volunteer work and the work of community-based organizations. Voluntary practices offer an important contribution to the development of human settlements, as they help to build strong, cohesive communities as well as to develop a sense of social solidarity, in the process generating significant economic outputs;

43. Are committed to improving prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response capacities, with the contribution of national and international cooperation networks, in order to reduce the vulnerability of human settlements to natural and human-made disasters and to implement effective post-disaster programmes for the affected human settlements, aimed, inter alia, at meeting immediate needs, reducing future disaster risks and making rebuilt human settlements accessible to all;

44. Commit ourselves to the goal of gender equality in human settlements development and resolve to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty and to stimulate the development of human settlements that are truly sustainable. We further commit ourselves to formulating and strengthening policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision-making;

45. Also commit ourselves to strengthening existing financial mechanisms and to identifying and developing appropriate innovative approaches for financing shelter and human settlements development at all levels. Furthermore, we resolve to continue to undertake legislative and administrative reforms giving women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies, and to ensure their right to security of tenure and their right to enter into contractual agreements. We resolve to promote increased and equal access for all people to open, efficient, effective and appropriate housing finance, to support savings mechanisms in the informal sector, where appropriate, and to strengthen regulatory and legal frameworks and financial management capacity at all appropriate levels;

46. Resolve to promote the upgrading of slums and the regularization of squatter settlements, within the legal framework of each country. In particular, we reiterate the aim of the “Cities without Slums” initiative to make a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

47. Affirm that, in the interest of affordable housing for the poor, it is necessary to promote cooperation among countries in order to popularize the use of adequate low-cost and sustainable building materials and appropriate technology for the construction of adequate low-cost housing and services within the reach of the poor, especially in slums and unplanned settlements;

48. Resolve to intensify efforts to include countries with economies in transition in the system of multilateral cooperation in the sustainable development of human settlements by developing the support for those countries to determine an adequate level of decentralization in the governance of urban and rural human settlements. We reiterate our commitment to involve in those
efforts the United Nations financial institutions, international and national foundations, the private sector and other partners of the Habitat Agenda;

49. **Take note** with satisfaction of the ongoing formulation of housing policy by many countries. We resolve to undertake the legislative and administrative reforms needed to support the efforts of people, individually and collectively, to produce affordable shelter, to adopt proactive planning of land supply, to promote the efficient functioning of land markets and administration, to eradicate legal and social barriers to equal and equitable access to land and to ensure that the equal rights of women and men to land and property are protected under the law. In implementing the above, we acknowledge the need for vigorously promoting affordable shelter and basic services for the homeless, preventing forced evictions that are contrary to the law and facilitating the access of all people, in particular the poor and vulnerable groups, to information on housing legislation, including any legal rights, and to remedies when those laws are violated. In this connection, we note with appreciation and support the initial approach and activities of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure;

50. **See** the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as an integral part of the overall fight for the eradication of poverty. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the pursuit of sustainable development are intimately linked and interdependent, and human settlements development is a key factor for sustainable development. The World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002, provides a good opportunity to pursue further and intensify that relationship;

51. **Resolve** to intensify efforts to ensure the transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of cities and other human settlements. We recognize that good governance, within each country and at the international level, is essential to addressing the challenges of urban poverty and environmental degradation and to harnessing the potential opportunities offered by globalization. Cities need specific approaches and methodologies to improve governance, to plan and act strategically in order to reduce urban poverty and social exclusion and to improve the economic and social status of all citizens and protect the environment in a sustainable way. In this connection, we **note** the importance of promoting sustainable livelihoods through education and training, in particular for the poor and vulnerable groups;

52. The human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic has developed in a much faster and much more dramatic way than could have been foreseen at Istanbul. We **resolve** to intensify efforts at the international and national levels against HIV/AIDS and, in particular, to formulate and implement appropriate policies and actions to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on human settlements. We **recognize** the problem of accessing financial resources for housing by HIV/AIDS victims and the need for shelter solutions for accommodating HIV/AIDS victims, especially the orphans and the terminally ill;

53. **Resolve** to intensify efforts to enhance the role of youth and civil society and to increase cooperation with parliamentarians in human settlements development;

54. **Also resolve** to promote more determined action against urban crime and violence, in particular violence against women, children and the elderly, through a coordinated response at all levels, in accordance, as appropriate, with integrated crime prevention action plans. Those plans might include a diagnostic survey of crime phenomena, the identification of all the relevant actors in crime prevention and the fight against crime, the establishment of consultation mechanisms for the design of a coherent strategy and the elaboration of possible solutions to those problems;

55. **Further resolve** to address seriously the challenges to human settlements posed by wars, conflicts, refugees and human-made disasters, and commit ourselves, through enhanced international cooperation mechanisms, to support post-conflict and post-disaster countries, with special emphasis on the provision of shelter and other basic services, in particular to vulnerable groups, refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as to facilitate restoring security of tenure and property rights;

56. **Resolve** to take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Habitat Agenda as well as obstacles to the realization of the rights of peoples living under
colonial and foreign occupation, which are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated;

57. Also resolve to expand and to strengthen the protection of civilians in conformity with international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,14 including article 49 thereof;

58. Resolve to strengthen international cooperation, including burden-sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, the countries hosting refugees, and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity, and to be reintegrated smoothly into their societies;

59. Resolve to promote access to safe drinking water for all and to facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport that is integrated and accessible to all, including people with disabilities. To that end, we need to promote transparent and accountable management of public services, as well as partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations, for the delivery of those services;

60. Commit ourselves to intensifying efforts to improve sustainable environmental planning and management practices and to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns in human settlements in all countries, in particular in industrialized countries. Integrated approaches addressing social, economic and environmental issues should be taken more systematically at all levels. Agenda 21 and the local Agenda 21 initiatives provide important inputs to the process;

61. Reiterate the need to integrate the local Agenda 21 process, as mentioned above, in the global plan of action for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The aims, policies and strategies of both agendas should be harmonized in order to promote sustainable urban planning and management;

62. Also reiterate that Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners should regularly monitor and evaluate their own performances and that, in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, Governments at all levels should identify and disseminate best practices and apply shelter and human settlements development indicators. To this end, we need to strengthen the capacity among all Habitat Agenda partners to handle and analyse information as well as to communicate with each other;

63. A further goal is to translate best practices into policies and to permit their replication. In this respect, the international community should ensure the effective formatting and dissemination of proven best practices and policies;

64. Recognizing that those living in poverty are in fact rich in innovative faculties and that microcredit plays an important role in eradicating poverty and improving human settlements, and, following success stories of some countries in this field, we encourage Governments, within their legal framework, and both national and international financial institutions, to strengthen the institutional frameworks by which it would be possible to extend microcredit, without collateral or security, to those living in poverty, in particular women;

65. Reiterate that international cooperation takes on added significance and importance in the light of recent trends towards the increased globalization and interdependence of the world economy. There is a need for the political will of all States and for specific action at the international level, including among cities, to inspire, to encourage and to strengthen existing and innovative forms of cooperation and partnership, coordination at all levels and increased investment from all sources, including the private sector, in order to contribute effectively to the improvement of shelter conditions, especially in developing countries. In this regard, we also resolve to pay particular attention to cities and other human settlements in critical natural environments, such as arid and semi-arid areas, for the purpose of providing assistance to and support for their development;

66. **Reconfirm** the role of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in advocating, promoting, monitoring and assessing the progress made in implementing the goals of adequate shelter for all by providing legal security of tenure and sustainable human settlements development in all countries and in combining best practices, enabling policies, and compiling legislation and action plans for identifying illustrative cities for the two global campaigns and advancing further the normative debate and operational action on major human settlements issues, inter alia, by timely and regular publication of global flagship reports. We also support the establishment of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System, designed to allow better monitoring and mutual reinforcement of actions taken by international agencies in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

67. **Reaffirm** our commitment to international cooperation as an essential element in the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda. In this regard, we invite the Secretary-General to report to the General 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 function of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

68. **Agree** to review regularly the further implementation of the Habitat Agenda, with a view to assessing progress and considering new initiatives.

---

15 The term “norm” refers to generally accepted standards, guidelines or principles, and should not be understood to imply that they are intended to be implemented through binding legal instruments.