Draft Resolution 21/1: World Urban Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of 16 February 2001, in which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director “to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum, with a view to strengthening the coordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda”;

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, and in particular paragraph 3 of section B, in which the General Assembly decided that the Forum would be a “non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet”;

Recalling further paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001, in which the General Assembly encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to participate, as appropriate, in the World Urban Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the third session of the World Urban Forum,

1. Welcomes with appreciation the contributions made by the Government of Canada, in hosting the third session of the World Urban Forum in the city of Vancouver from 19 to 23 June 2006;

2. Welcomes the increased level of participation at the third session of the World Urban Forum of Governments; local authorities; the private sector; cultural, women’s, young people’s and grassroots groups; and media organizations, leading to the successful outcome of the session;

3. Welcomes with appreciation the invitation by the Government of China to host the fourth session of the World Urban Forum in the city of Nanjing from ……… October 2008;

4. Endorses the establishment of a Secretariat for the World Urban Forum to be coordinated by a senior staff member who will adequately prepare, manage and follow-up the Forum in order to maximize opportunities for sharing lessons learned, best practices and good policies in the field of shelter and sustainable urbanization;

5. Reiterates that the World Urban Forum should be as inclusive as possible so as to ensure a fruitful and focused dialogue between Governments from all regions, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners;

6. Requests the Executive Director to take into account the deliberations and decisions of the Governing Council at its twenty-first session in her preparation of the provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to mobilize adequate resources for the preparation and conduct of future sessions of the World Urban Forum, making specific provisions in future proposed programmes of work and budgets;

8. Urges all Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to attend and participate actively in the deliberations of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum;

9. Invites Governments which are in a position to do so to contribute generously in order to support the travel to and participation in the fourth session of the World Urban Forum by representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and of Habitat Agenda partners, including representatives of organizations of women, young people and people with disabilities;

10. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the outcome of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum.

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2 HSP/GC/20/2/Add.1 and 2.