Draft Resolution on Urban Youth Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolutions 19/13.5 and 6, and 20/1.4 inviting governments and other partners to support and enable young peoples, and especially young women’s involvement and participation in local and national governance related to human settlements development, through capacity building and provision of resources;

Noting its commitment in resolution 20/1.10 to developing, exchanging and improving best practices on youth participation;

Noting also its resolution 20/1.6 to encouraging governments at all levels and other relevant actors to provide vocational and entrepreneurship training for youth in urban areas;

Cognizant of its resolutions 19/13 paras 7 and 8 and 20/1 para 14 urging governments, non-governmental and private sector organizations and international financial institutions to provide or increase financial support for programs benefiting children and youth’s participation in the development and improvement of urban settlements;

Taking note of the commitments by Governments in the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/50/81, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, encouraging and promoting youth associations through financial, educational and technical support and promotion of their activities;

Concerned by the over 200 million youth living in poverty, 130 million youth illiterate, 88 million unemployed and 10 million young people living with HIV/AIDS; and the limited international assistance that is targeted to vulnerable youth to help them realize their capabilities as agents of social change;

Concerned especially that in the past 10 years youth unemployment has risen at a rate over 50 times faster than the global average\(^1\);

Recognizing that there is ample anecdotal evidence of effective youth led and focused initiatives, especially as related to employment creation and entrepreneurship.

The Governing Council

1. Requests that the Executive Director establish a Technical Cooperation Trust fund entitled “Trust Fund for Urban Youth-led Development” (Trust Fund) to support the youth-led initiatives within the following focal areas:

1.1. Mobilization of young people to exert political influence on decision makers through advocacy and exchange of information in accordance to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international and national legislation;

\(^1\) Based on ILO figures published in 2004 showing youth unemployment growth by 10.5% while average unemployment rose by only 0.2%
1.2. Supporting the development of interest based information and communication oriented networks to conscientize young men and women on their human rights;

1.3. Sharing of information on best practices related to development activities for youth;

1.4. Demonstration and piloting of new and innovative approaches to deliver services, advice and information to young people on issues of health, education, employment, social security, good governance and secure tenure;

1.5. Set up credit mechanisms, extension services, vocational training, legal advisory functions to promote entrepreneurship and employment for young men and women;

1.6. Promoting gender mainstreaming in all activities of the youth trust fund.

2. **Request** that the Executive Director targets investments by the fund to those youth who need assistance the most, in other words poorest of the poor, youth, and especially young women, in urban slums, with a primary focus on their self-governed organizations and groups, and secondary, agencies that are working with these groups.

3. **Requests** that the Executive Director establish a Review Board which would be comprised of multilateral, government, private sector, and civil society donors as full members and relevant UN organizations as observers, and which would be empowered to develop guidelines for the operation of the fund, assess program implementation and amend the policies of the Trust Fund, as well as advise the Executive Director on the operation of the fund.

4. Requests that the Executive Director reserve two seats on the Review Board for at least one young man and one young woman from targeted youth populations as nominated by Youth Advisory Council of UN Habitat.

5. **Requests** that the Executive Director establish a secretariat to manage the Trust Fund on her/his behalf by the policies established in the Review Board, which would be hosted in the UN Habitat Partners and Youth section.

6. **Requests** that the Executive Director establish a Steering Committee, comprised of the various operational arms of UN Habitat, to develop guidelines for project applications, and put in place procedures for promoting the fund, processing and assessing applications, disbursing and managing funds. The committee will make bi-monthly recommendations on funding to the Secretariat who will forward them to the Executive Director with comment.

7. **Requests** that the Executive Director solicit contributions from multilateral, government, private sector, and civil society for the establishment of the fund.

8. **Requests** the Executive Director to report to it at its next session progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.