Sustainable development of Arctic human settlements

The Governing Council,

Recalling the resolution 20/8 of its previous session,

Taking note that the existence of the human settlements in the Arctic region and their population is impeded by the severe climatic conditions coupled with the environmental pollution, degradation of the fragile ecosystems and of the natural habitat due to the increasing exploration of the reach regional natural resources and the rapid industrial development without an appropriate observance of the sustainable development criteria,

Noting with concern demographic trends in regard of the indigenous peoples and the rest of population in the above mentioned region and their growing vulnerability due to the degradation of the natural habitat conditions and the non-adequate compensation growth of their life standards,

Recognizing special needs to provide an adequate shelter and socially economic standards of life correlating with extreme natural conditions for the peoples of the Arctic region, especially for those indigenous, and the need to ensure the comprehensively sustainable development of the region itself and of the human settlements in that region,

Welcoming the first encouraging steps undertaken by the Executive Director on promoting the UN-HABITAT Agenda goals towards the Arctic region and establishing in this aim of the outset relations of collaboration and coordination with the Arctic Council as the main regional player in the Arctic region affairs,

Welcoming also efforts undertaken by the Executive Director on establishing relations of cooperation of the UN-HABITAT with the regional research network GRID-Arendal supported by the Norwegian
Government and with other regional stake-holders and players in raising the awareness of the international community on the sustainable development challenges of the Arctic region, including those faced by the indigenous peoples and the rest of population residing in those areas,

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Sustainable Working Group of the Arctic Council in the field of human and social-economic development, especially taking note of the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) as a reference and background information on human development and living conditions in the Arctic region,

Noting also the need for increased exchange of the action-focused information between the UN-HABITAT and the Arctic Council and other regional and international relevant players, aiming at sustainable development of human settlements in the Arctic region,

1. Requests the Executive Director to carry on and to extend with the efforts on the establishment of the UN-HABITAT partnership relations across the UN-System, the region-wide and other interested appropriate players for the promotion of the UN-HABITAT Agenda and the forthcoming activities on the sustainable development of the human settlements and the increase of the life standards of the indigenous and the rest of population in the Arctic region,

2. Also requests the Executive Director to apply for the status of an observer for the UN-HABITAT in the Arctic Council’s activities with the aim to strengthen the collaboration and coordination with this leading regional player and to avoid the duplication in the required efforts to facilitate an increase in the sustainable development of the Arctic region and the improvement of the living conditions of the Arctic regional population,

3. Invites the Executive Director to harmonize further existing close collaboration with the UNEP, already an Arctic Council’s observer, in connection with the urban environment acute issues existing in the Arctic region,
4. **Encourages** the Executive Director to accomplish the implementation of the resolution 20/8 and to review relevant research results, current projects and other data on living conditions, local governance and management in the Arctic region human settlements, including but not limited to, the projects under way or under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Group of the Arctic Council, for providing a baseline for future decisions on the UN-HABITAT own contribution and adding of values to the improvement of living conditions in Arctic communities,

5. **Invites** the National Governments of the stake-holder countries of the Arctic region and other interested Governments and players to provide all necessary in-kind, financial and any other required support to the UN-HABITAT in order to implement the present resolution and to fulfill the full collaboration with this UN Program in the above-mentioned sphere,

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.