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;

Recalling its commitment in paragraph 45 (e) of the Habitat Agenda to the objective of “working in partnership with youth in order to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare youth for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development”;

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;

Recognizing that there is ample empirical evidence of effective youth led and focused initiatives, especially as related to youth development.

The Governing Council

1. Requests that the Executive Director establish a special fund within the Habitat Foundation, to be titled “Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development” (Opportunities Fund) to support the youth-led initiatives in pursuance of Habitat Agenda, UN-HABITAT’s work programme and overall strategy within the following focal areas:

1.1. Mobilization of young people to help strengthen youth-related policy formulation through advocacy and exchange of information with decision makers, in accordance with the relevant international and national legislation and instruments;

1.2. Building capacity of governments at all levels, NGOs and civil society organizations and private sector entities to better address youth needs and issues and to work more effectively with youth in their communities, as well as building capacity of youth-led organizations to work constructively and effectively with these same bodies;

1.3. Supporting the development of interest based information and communication oriented networks to raise awareness among young men and women on their obligations, rights; and opportunities;
1.4. Sharing and exchange of information on best practices related to development activities for youth;

1.5. Piloting and demonstration of new and innovative approaches to deliver services, advice and information to young people on issues of health, education, employment, social security, good governance, adequate shelter and secure tenure;

1.6. Facilitate extension services, vocational training, legal advisory functions and credit mechanisms to promote entrepreneurship and employment for young men and women in cooperation with UN agencies and other stakeholders;

1.7. Promoting gender mainstreaming in all activities of the urban youth;

2. Requests that the Executive Director targets investments by the Fund to those youth who need assistance the most, in particular the most vulnerable and at risk youth, and especially young women, in urban slums, with a primary focus on their organizations and groups, and secondary, agencies that are working with these groups.

3. Requests that the Executive Director establish An Advisory Board which would be comprised of senior managers of UN-HABITAT and contributing donors. Two seats on the Advisory Board will be reserved for at least one young man and one young woman from targeted youth populations.

4. The Advisory Board will develop guidelines for the operation of the Fund, assess and make recommendations for support for project applicants, assess implementation, evaluate, and amend the policies of the Opportunities Fund, as well as advise the Executive Director on the operation of the Fund.

5. Requests that the Executive Director establish a mechanism to facilitate the Opportunities Fund on her/his behalf by the policies established by the Advisory Board, which would be hosted in the UN Habitat Partners and Youth section, and put in place procedures for promoting the Fund both internally for utilization through existing programmes, and externally through partner organizations and agencies, processing and assessing applications, disbursing and managing Funds.
6. **Requests** that the Executive Director solicit contributions from multilateral, government, private sector, and civil society for the establishment of the Fund.

7. **Requests** that the Executive director undertake an evaluation of the working of the fund and submit a report at the 23rd session of the Governing Council.

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