Annex IV

OBJECTIVES OF AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The World Urban Forum is being convened pursuant to operative paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements in which the Commission 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.” Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly decided, in its resolution 56/206, 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.” At the same session, the General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 56/205, 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 UN-HABITAT.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

2. Building on the very valuable experience of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty, the unified World Urban Forum will have international cooperation in shelter and urban development as its substantive focus. Accordingly, the meetings of the World Urban Forum will facilitate the exchange of experiences and the advancement of collective knowledge among cities and their development partners. The meetings of the World Urban Forum will also place strong emphasis on the participation of Habitat Agenda partners and relevant international programmes, funds and agencies, thus ensuring their inclusion in the identification of new issues, the sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of best practices and good policies. Another function of the World Urban Forum will be the furthering of cooperation and coordination among development agencies in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The report of the World Urban Forum will be presented to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT for consideration and appropriate action, including transmittal to the biennial sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

III. PARTICIPATION

3. Participation in the World Urban Forum will be open to representatives of national governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners. The latter include, inter alia, global parliamentarians on Habitat, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, human settlement professionals, research institutions and academies of science, the private, business and non-profit sectors, foundations, relevant United Nations organizations and other international agencies.

IV. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

4. A review of operative paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements, of paragraph 3 of section I. B of General Assembly resolution 56/206, of paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/205, and of the above-mentioned objectives and participation at the World Urban Forum indicates that the Forum is clearly not meant to be an intergovernmental meeting and, consequently, the use of rules of procedure such as those of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT would be inappropriate. The use of those rules would limit the full and effective participation of the Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations and recommendations of the Forum. Additionally, since both the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty did not have formal rules of procedure, the World Urban Forum does not need to have formal rules of procedure. Simple working arrangement would facilitate maximum participation of the Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations and recommendations of the Forum.

5. The working arrangements for the World Urban Forum draw from experience gained from the innovative working arrangements that were used very effectively and successfully by the second
committee of the Habitat II Conference (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-14 June 1996) and subsequently revived for
the dialogues among governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners held during the
seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements (Nairobi, 5-14 May 1999
and 5-9 February 2001, respectively) and also successfully used in the thematic committee of the special
session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome

6. In essence, the main discussions of the Forum will be conducted in the form of dialogues among
all participants. Towards this end, selected panelists would introduce and make short substantive
presentations on specific issues followed by discussions among all participants on those specific issues.

7. At the end of each dialogue session, the Chair of each session, drawing from the deliberations,
would prepare a summary of the main issues and observations raised during the presentations and
discussions. These dialogue summaries should be as inclusive as possible. Once endorsed by the plenary
as an accurate reflection of what transpired in the dialogues, these dialogue summaries would be part of
the report to be submitted by the Chair of the Forum to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT for
consideration and appropriate action, including transmittal to the biennial sessions of the Governing

V. WORKING GROUPS

8. For issues that require more analysis or in-depth discussions, the plenary would, as appropriate,
establish working groups or subgroups to discuss those issues and then report back to the plenary.

VI. ADVISORY GROUP

9. Prior to each session, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT will establish a multi-partner
advisory group that will advise and assist the Executive Director with the organization, management and
conduct of the meetings of that particular session of the World Urban Forum. The Chair of the advisory
group will also serve as the Chair of that session of the World Urban Forum.

VII. OTHER WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Date and venue

10. The World Urban Forum will meet in the years when the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT
is not meeting and at a date and venue to be proposed by the secretariat in consultation with national
governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners.

Provisional agenda

11. The provisional agenda for each session of the World Urban Forum will be prepared by the
secretariat in consultation with national governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners,
at least six months in advance of the session.

Languages

12. English will be the language of the World Urban Forum. Other languages may be added, subject
to the availability of extrabudgetary resources for that purpose.

Secretariat

13. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) will serve as the convener
and secretariat of the World Urban Forum. It will organize the dialogue sessions in consultation with
Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, taking into account, as far as
practicable, the need for geographical, partner and gender balances. It will also be responsible for
supporting the Chair in the preparation of the report of each session. It may delegate the organization of particular dialogue sessions to specific partners.

**Revision of the working arrangements**

14. These working arrangements may be revised at any session of the World Urban Forum on the basis of experience gathered at preceding sessions of the World Urban Forum.