Agenda Item 9

Developments at the 64th General Assembly
(documents for information)

i) Summary of the Second Committee

ii) Address by the Executive Director to the 2nd Committee of the 64th session of the GA

iii) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
Summary of the Second Committee  
3-4 November 2009, 30th and 31st meeting

Agenda Item 54: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on  
Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations  
Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

The Committee began its consideration of the item on 3 November and concluded its general debate on 4 November. The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Tibajjuka, introduced the Secretary General’s report1. A total of 13 countries addressed the Committee under this item2. The Secretary-General’s report to ECOSOC and the report of the 22nd session of the Governing Council (GC) of UN-HABITAT were also before the Committee.

Noting the sense of urgency, Mrs. Tibajjuka highlighted the daunting challenges faced by the international community as a result of the continuing worldwide impact of climate change, compounded by the global financial crisis, conflicts in many countries and migration patterns accelerating the rate of urbanization, which threaten to undo and possibly reverse the gains made in achieving the MDGs. She mentioned the forward looking resolutions of the GC on Cities and Climate Change, the Guidelines for access to basic services for all, and the request to the General Assembly to convene a third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016 which will provide UN-HABITAT and its Habitat Agenda partners with the necessary vision and impetus to move ahead. The resolution on affordable housing finance is also a major milestone, in which Member States were invited to support and contribute to the replenishment of the UN-HABITAT trust funds, including the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO) and the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF). The Executive Director quoted the United States President’s message to World Habitat Day, which was hosted by the US in Washington, D.C. on 5 October 2009, in which he affirmed that the US is committed to working with the UN and its partners around the world to help more families find a safe and secure place to live. Going over the history of UN-HABITAT, she underlined its success to elevate the visibility and importance accorded to housing and urban development, including the 10-fold increase of the UN-HABITAT budget and the substantial increase in the volume of delivery in country-level activities during the period of her tenure. The Executive Director reported on UN-HABITAT flagship reports, the 2008-2013 Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP), and the important role that the World Urban Forum plays to elevate the Habitat Agenda, with the launching of the World Urban Campaign. She expressed the fact that climate change added a new urgency to the work of UN-HABITAT and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The emerging issues are the link between rapid and chaotic urbanization and urbanization of poverty, increasing volatility in prices of food, energy and water, and climate change. Finally, Mrs Tibajjuka took the opportunity to thank member

1 A/64/260
2 Statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations), Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), China, India, Kenya, Singapore, Brazil, Bahrain, Jamaica, Ethiopia and Nigeria.
states for their support of UN-HABITAT and herself during her tenure as Executive Director which will end in 2010 and hoped that her successor will be elected to allow for a hand over in a timely manner.

During the formal debate, Sudan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of CARICOM), Indonesia (on behalf of ASEAN), Tanzania, China, India, Kenya, Singapore, Brazil, Bahrain, Ethiopia and Nigeria spoke.

All the delegations, including Sudan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), emphasized the urgent need to meet the needs of the urban population regarding housing, infrastructure and basic urban services to prevent exacerbation of rapidly increasing urban poverty, deplorable housing conditions, poor health and nutrition, as well as low productivity. Special focus needs to be placed on protection of the urban poor so they are not affected by the worst global and financial crisis. The Millennium Development Goals must be implemented into both regional, national and local plans and strategies. All the delegations who spoke expressed their support for the UN-HABITAT Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTISP) for 2008-2013 as it aims at mainstreaming the sustainable urbanization agenda into core development programs and activities. Most delegations emphasized the fact that in order to get results, the international donor community must be called upon, to provide a greater predictability of financing and to address the imbalance between core and non-core resources.

Some delegations, such as Sweden (on behalf of the European Union) emphasized their support of UN-HABITAT’s intention to work with local authorities to support their efforts of reducing ecological footprint of cities as well as improving their safety and resilience to the effects of climate change, welcomed the Cities and Climate Change initiatives of UN-HABITAT, and believed that embarking on a path towards sustainable urban development requires the collaboration of all parties at local, national, regional and international levels, as well as a renewed commitment to implementing the Habitat Agenda. The EU also strongly supported UN-HABITAT’s Gender Equality Action Plan.

Many countries, such as Indonesia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, and Tanzania, expressed the fact that political commitment is necessary to find solutions to the housing and urbanization crisis, and to establish a viable housing policy and good financing systems.

Most of the delegates, including Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Antigua and Barbuda, Nigeria and Indonesia, expressed the need to have a Habitat III conference in 2016, to deal with the emerging challenges such as climate change and financial crises through sustainable urbanization.

Many delegations, such as Sudan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Brazil and China, commended the World Urban Forum, the Gender, the Youth as well as the post-disaster reconstruction programmes that need to be strengthened, and they said that they benefited from UN-HABITAT programmes and projects.

All the delegates expressed their appreciation to the Executive Director for her tireless dedication and valuable work in promoting sustainable urbanization and human settlements.
UN-HABITAT

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Address to the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Committee of the 64\textsuperscript{th} session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

Agenda Item 54

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

By

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director

New York – 03 November 2009
Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to report to you today with an update of the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.


The second document, ECOSOC E/2009/80 is the report of the Secretary-General on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, ECOSOC E/2009/80.


Excellencies,

Since I last had the honour to address this committee, considerable progress has been made in terms of the strengthening of UN-HABITAT to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

However, the continuing worldwide impact of climate change, compounded by the global financial crisis, conflicts in many countries and migration patterns accelerating the rate of urbanization are taxing us more and more. Indeed, this means that the international community is facing an unprecedented set of daunting challenges on several fronts.

I thus stand before you yet again with a sense of urgency. As we witness a slowdown in world economic growth, we are already seeing the impact on the world’s poorest and most vulnerable.

The economic crisis and the growing number of disasters wrought by climate change threaten to undo and possibly reverse many of the gains made on achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In this first decade of our new urban era, there are approximately 1 billion people living in slums and squatter settlements in the world. Slum prevalence is highest in sub-Saharan Africa at 62 percent. Then come south Asia 43 percent, East Asia 37 percent, and Latin America and the Caribbean, 27 percent. Figures carried in our 2008-2009 flagship report, the State of the World’s Cities, show that one out of every three people living in cities of the developing world lives in a slum. If no remedial action is taken, their numbers are projected to rise to 1.4 billion by 2020. This implies that developing countries will face even greater urban poverty problems than they do today.

Yet I also stand before you with a renewed sense of optimism and hope.

**World Habitat Day, 2009**

Awareness on the need for sustainable urbanization is on the increase in both developed and developing nations. For example, On World Habitat Day, the 5th of October 2009 that was hosted
by the United States in Washington, D.C., President Barack Obama said in his message to us and I quote:

"Every year, World Habitat Day gives us the opportunity to raise awareness and offer ideas about how we can make our planet a better place for ourselves and our children. This year’s commemoration comes at a moment of challenge for America and the world. We find ourselves in the midst of a global recession. Millions of families in our nation and all nations have lost their homes or fear that they will lose their homes some time in the future. We are committed to working with the United Nations and our partners around the world to help more families to find a safe and secure place to live."

This is a good sign, that after many of obscurity, the Habitat Agenda is attracting attention and recognition from such high offices. Indeed, in Washington World Habitat Day was transformed into World Habitat Week, drawing participants from all parts of US Government (White House, State and Housing) and a broad spectrum of influential and strategic partners including Foundations (Rockefeller and Gates), think tanks (Brookings Institute and American Planning Association) and hands on NGOs (Habitat for Humanity) etc. All this was ably presided over by the Secretary for Housing and Urban Development of the US, Mr. Shaun Donovan. I wish to acknowledge their support and thank them for helping us to raise the profile of WHD not only in this country but on the global stage. Even more encouraging, while I was in DC, my colleague, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Ms. Inga Klevby was doing the same at the European Parliament in Brussels that hosted the event in Europe. Speaking on behalf of the President of the European Parliament, Mrs. Eva Joly, President of its Development Commission underscored the fact that the urbanization of poverty has made it imperative to mainstream urban development into international development assistance a matter of priority. All this is historic and was not always the case. Although it is still not in all countries that issues of sustainable urbanization are receiving such recognition, these are encouraging developments. They are examples that need to be embraced and emulated by all if we are to mainstream this important agenda of securing our urban future. Without public awareness and understanding, we shall not get the political will necessary to galvanize action and requisite investment resources.

Distinguished delegates,

**The Governing Council, April 2009**

The twenty-second session of our Governing Council held in April in Nairobi drew delegates from 104 countries representing national and local governments, non-governmental and civil society organisations, financial institutions, professional associations and the private sector.

It took some landmark decisions of great importance. The resolutions on **Cities and Climate Change, Guidelines for access to basic services for all**, and the request to the General Assembly to convene a **third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)** are clearly forward looking decisions. They provide our staff and our closest partners with the necessary vision and impetus to move ahead.

**Experimental reimbursable seeding operations (ERSO)**

The resolution on **affordable housing finance** is also a major milestone. As the Secretary-General has so starkly reminded us, UN-HABITAT is here to tackle persistent urban poverty.
Member States were invited to contribute to the support and the replenishment of the UN-HABITAT trust funds, including the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO), the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF) and the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund.

As all three documents before you show, the Programme continued to strengthen its catalytic role in facilitating cooperation between domestic banks, local authorities and urban poor organizations to mobilize and package domestic capital, public investment and community savings for slum upgrading. Implementation of the Facility, and the experimental reimbursable seeding operations are intended to show how financing for affordable housing can be undertaken by combining the efforts of the private sector, micro-finance and community financing arrangements. Lessons from these experiments will help inform policies and strategies that have the potential to benefit millions of urban poor who currently do not have access to formal credit facilities. It gratifies me to note that after 8 years of hard work at Slum Upgrading in Kenya, our host country, the first beneficiaries have moved out of the sprawling Kibera slum to their new apartments! A small step one can say, but then, how else does one start a long journey?

Excellencies,

For reasons I shall clarify shortly, I beg your indulgence on this occasion to look back briefly at the road we have taken. To look into the past, assess the present so that we can better project into the future.

Historical records show that what is today known the world over as UN-HABITAT all started as a consequence of the World War II destruction of towns and cities across Europe and Asia. The first UN-led housing programme was to provide emergency shelter to those huddling in the post-WW II ruins of cities? The General Assembly, in 1946, subsequently called for international exchange of expertise on housing to assist countries in their recovery and reconstruction.

Another 30 years would pass, however, before housing and urban issues began to flicker on the radar screen of a United Nations created when two-thirds of humanity was still rural, and environmental issues not a major concern.

The UN General Assembly cited its concern at what it called the “deplorable world housing situation” in 1969, and declared human settlements as a priority for the 25th anniversary of the United Nations in 1971.

The next year, the UN held its first global conference on the human environment in Stockholm. This Conference was historical in recognising the link between the environmental agenda - the so-called green agenda - and the root causes of the environmental degradation, namely human activity, human settlements and urbanisation.

The Stockholm Conference recommended a global conference on human settlements and the creation of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. The Foundation was established by the General Assembly in 1974 and the Habitat I Conference was held in Vancouver in 1976.

After the Vancouver Conference, the General Assembly established the 58 member Commission on Human Settlements and its Secretariat: the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, headquartered in Nairobi.
Despite growing awareness of the consequences of rapid urbanisation, development theory and development practice would remain focused on rural poverty and rural development. The underlying assumptions were that urbanisation was temporary and could even be reversed; that the formal sector would absorb the informal sector over time; and finally that market forces and trickle down effects would cater to the housing and basic needs of the burgeoning urban populations.

But 20 years later, the UN Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) was convened in June 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey, largely in recognition of the fact that these basic assumptions had been taken over by a very different reality characterised by urban slums, urban poverty and accelerating urbanisation. The Habitat Agenda, and its twin goals on “adequate shelter for all” and sustainable human settlements in an urbanising world, provided the basis for a renewed and explicit normative mandate.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Against this backdrop, in 2000 when I was asked by the Former Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan to leave my career of choice at UNCTAD and move to Nairobi to revitalise an organisation that had not been able to perform to expectation. The same year the Millennium Summit marked another major milestone in our history. It recognised the dire circumstances of the world’s urban poor. It articulated the commitment of member States to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. (Target 11, Millennium Development Goal No. 7). It also pledged to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by the year 2015. (MDG 7, Target 10). The sanitation target was added in Johannesburg in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

These two targets showed a new political commitment of direct relevance to UN-HABITAT’s mandate. Shortly thereafter, and as a result of the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to review progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, UN-HABITAT was elevated to a fully fledged Programme and the Commission on Human Settlements, which was a mere standing committee of ECOSOC, was transformed into a Governing Council which is a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. It was a major milestone.

The World Urban Forum

One of the first decisions of the new Governing Council was to convene the World Urban Forum, merging two previous forums, one on urban poverty and the other on urban sustainability. The first World Urban Forum was held in Nairobi in 2002 as part of the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development later that year in Johannesburg.

The second World Urban Forum was in Barcelona in 2004, and the third in Vancouver marking our 30th birthday in June 2006. It attracted over 11,000 people and over 3,000 had to be turned away for space limitations.

The most recent was in Nanjing, China, in November last year. It was attended by approximately 8,000 participants from some 155 countries. The exhibition attracted more than 20,000 visitors in four days.
In clear messages to policymakers at every level of national and local government, the WUF’s have cited the need for policies and interventions to ensure that the growing legions of urban poor in a rapidly urbanizing world did not get left behind.

The Forum, which has become the world’s premier conference on cities, at many levels and in many debates, stressed the importance of the link between overcoming urban poverty and winning the battle against the scourge of climate change.

It also stressed the importance of working more closely with the private sector, and this led to the launch of the first Habitat Business Forum in New Delhi in July 2009.

**Flagship Reports**

At the Nanjing Forum we launched our biennial flagship report, *The State of the World’s Cities 2008/9*. It explores the concept of “harmonious cities” as a theoretical framework to understand today’s urban world and as an operational tool to confront the most important challenges facing urban areas and their development processes.

UN-HABITAT also launched its new quarterly magazine, *Urban World*, at the forum.

The Programme’s main biennial flagship report, the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2009 – Planning Sustainable Cities*, was launched in Washington on World Habitat Day. It reviews the major challenges currently facing cities and towns all over the world, the emergence and spread of modern urban planning and the effectiveness of current approaches. It identifies innovative urban planning approaches and practices that are more responsive to current and future challenges of urbanization.

**The Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) 2008-2013**

A review of progress in implementation of MTSIP in mid-2009 highlighted some achievements, some challenges and identified next steps.

Suggested next steps include, development of the MTSIP Road-Map 2009 – 2013 through revision of the MTSIP Action Plan which would define the steps to be taken with clear allocation of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities tied to time-lines, aligning staff competencies with MTSIP priorities, improving efficiency, transparency and delegation of authority, as well as review of institutional governance and management structure. Particular attention will be paid to results-based management capacity building.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

As we prepare for the next Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010, I must stress that the Forum has become the world’s premier gathering of minds, of ideas and of exchange of practices on matters urban. We intend to use the Forum to elevate the Habitat Agenda still further with the launch in Rio of a new World Urban Campaign. And as campaign instruments we have well established Regional Ministerial Conferences on Housing and Urban Development in Latin America (MINURVI), in Africa (AMCHUD) and Asia and the Pacific (APAMCHUD). All three meet regularly. We have also continued to work closely with Local Authority networks globally through their United Cities and Local Government that we helped to create.
It is important to say here that the most telling indicators of our success in enabling UN-HABITAT to elevate the visibility and importance accorded to housing and urban development can be found with a few key indicators.

An obvious one is the progression of our budget which has steadily increased 10-fold during the period of my tenure. This is indeed a great show of faith in our work and our vision. I thank all of you who contributed to this success.

Another key indicator is the volume of delivery in our country-level activities. These have also progressed substantially over the last nine years. From non-representation at country level, UN-HABITAT now boasts over 35 Habitat Programme Managers embedded in One UN country Offices in the developed world, delivering as ONE.

A third key indicator is the ratio between fixed costs, or staff costs, and activities. This ratio has improved over the last biennium, and constitutes the first step in efficiency gains and the lowering of transaction costs. We pride ourselves with the fact that for most services rendered, such as our flagship reports, we are a best practice in matters of producing quality products at a string shoe budget. We have managed to produce these reports at a fraction of the budgets available to our long established colleagues who are also well known and can relatively easily raise financial support.

Other key indicators include our membership in the CEB and in the IASC, the scope and depth of our partnership agreements with UN agencies, professional associations, grass roots organisations and the private sector. Last but not least, I can proudly point to the fact that we are increasingly leveraging our policy advisory and capacity building services with investment follow-up, not only with the World Bank but also with regional development banks and of late national commercial banks, paving way for moving our follow up investment activities to scale.

Another indicator that we can all feel proud about is that we have moved from a peripheral technical organisation to an agency responsible for convening global forums to the extent of being entrusted to lead a UN system-wide event devoted to “Better Cities, Better Life” at the Shanghai Expo in 2010. We look forward to welcoming you all to visit the spectacular UN Pavillion for which we have been designated manager for the entire 6 months of the exhibition.

Climate change has added new urgency to our work and our agenda for action. Throughout the COP 15 preparatory process, and now as we gear up to go to Copenhagen, we have not tired to raise the flag of the need to keep into focus the importance of Local Action for the delivery of Global Goals be it in matters of Adaptation, Mitigation, Technology Transfer or Finance and attendant international support measures to secure our common future.

But we must never lose sight of the fact that these gains are still minute when compared to the 1 billion people living in slums and sub-standard housing, and the thousands that are joining them every day. We are indeed sitting on a social time bomb that is ticking away in many overcrowded, poverty-stricken corners of a geopolitical chessboard already fraught with problems.

In just one example of our work here, we co-organized and hosted the first tri-partite ACP-EC-UN-HABITAT International Conference on Urbanisation Challenges and Poverty Reduction for ACP countries, at our Nairobi headquarters in June. This Conference advanced three-way cooperation for the implementation of a combined operational and normative approach to slum upgrading and prevention.
Youth and Gender

Another example carried in the reports before you, comes from the results of a survey on youth-led development initiatives and 200 peer-reviewed good practices in youth-led development from around the world were disseminated at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum. This led to the launch of our new Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development. The Fund is designed to provide small grants to youth-led initiatives in skills development. The procedures and criteria to be used for approving support have been prepared and widely shared with Habitat Agenda partners interested in urban youth issues.

Similarly, the access of women to land and property rights is something that is central in the Habitat Agenda. The establishment of the Women Land Access Trusts (WLATs) in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Mozambique and Ethiopia has set in motion a process of walking the talk on women empowerment. These pilots are expected to spread to other parts of the developing world.

Excellencies,

Charting the way forward

I would like to share with you what UN-HABITAT believes are some of the emerging issues that need to be addressed head on and with firm commitments. These issues are:

1) The link between rapid and chaotic urbanization and the urbanisation of poverty. Understanding this link will be critical to our collective ability to attain not just the slum and water and sanitation targets of the MDGs, but practically all of the MDGs;

2) The link between rapidly growing, poorly planned and managed cities with increasing volatility in the prices of food, energy and water. This link is vital to developing effective strategies that recognise the importance of urban-rural linkages and managing the complexities of metropolitan development; and

3) The link between rapid and chaotic urbanisation and climate change. This link is born form the realisation that any serious attempt at climate change mitigation and adaptation must include our cities as front line actors.

These are the red warning lights, so to speak – the battleground for sustainable development. UN-HABITAT is seized with the issues and counts on your continued guidance and support to deliver its mandate. In this regard, the issue of strengthening the Governance structure at the Nairobi duty station (UNON) which has continued to constrain the agencies operations is also something that the Governing Council has referred to this August body for resolution.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to conclude with a farewell. This auspicious occasion marks the last time that I appear before this Committee in my capacity as UN-HABITAT’s Executive Director. I would be remiss if I did not use the opportunity to thank you so sincerely for the support you have given me ever since I assumed my duties at the agency, nine years ago. When you meet at the 65th Session of the GA, I shall have just concluded my tenure that ends in August of 2010. I have decided to move
on rather than seek a fresh mandate. I believe my address has highlighted the achievements made and the solid foundation laid. I believe the agency now requires another actor to consolidate the gains made and move it to greater heights. I thank you most sincerely for the confidence you have shown in me by allowing me to serve through two full terms at the helm of this very important Programme of the United Nations, that is now totally transformed, and better tuned to deliver its mandate. I thank the donor nations most sincerely for helping me to get the funding which has improved so considerably during my tenure, overcoming the difficulties of the past that had threatened to derail the programme completely. Last but not least, I thank former Secretary-General Kofi Annan for the trust he had in me to give me such a wonderful opportunity to serve in such a challenging position.

It is my hope that you will finalize the election of my successor in a timely manner to allow me to hand over in good time. As you might be aware, historically delays in handling the transition had been one of the reasons for poor performance in the past as care take Executive Directors had to be relied upon. I have every confidence in your continued and steadfast support in the remaining period of my tenure and subsequent support to my successor. Rest assured I shall continue to be available to serve the UN and humanity as will be decided by the Secretary-General.

Thank you for your kind attention.
Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 54
Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Sudan:*

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of
19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December
of 22 December 2004, 60/203 of 22 December 2005, 61/206 of 20 December 2006,
62/198 of 19 December 2007 and 63/221 of 19 December 2008,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July
2008/239 of 23 July 2008 and 2009/238 of 29 July 2009,

Recalling the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration1 of
achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-
dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World
Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")2 to
halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and
sanitation,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77
and China.

1 See resolution 55/2.

26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and
corrigendum), chap. 1, resolution 2, annex.
Recalling also the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility,

Recognizing that the current financial crisis could negatively affect the ability of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to mobilize resources and promote the use of incentives and market measures as well as the mobilization of domestic and international financial resources for supporting private sector investment in affordable housing,

Welcoming the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for the period 2008-2013 and its efforts, as a non-resident agency, in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda into their respective development frameworks,

Noting the efforts of UN-Habitat in strengthening its collaboration with international and regional development banks and domestic financial institutions to combine public and private capital with capacity-building and policy reform activities in order to improve access by the poor to water and sanitation and affordable housing finance in support of the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Brazil and the city of Rio de Janeiro to host the fifth session of the World Urban Forum from 22 to 26 March 2010,

Reaffirming the increased importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in helping developing countries to develop capacities to achieve their national goals, including those related to sustainable human settlements and urban development,

Recalling its invitation to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to keep developments in housing finance systems under review in view of the current global economic and financial crisis, and its decision to explore the possibility of convening a high-level event of the General Assembly on the subject,

Recognizing the continued need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

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4 Resolution 5-25/2, annex.
6 See resolution 60/1.
the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and
the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in
the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable
Development and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Recognizing also the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the development
of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund of the United
Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, established by the Governing
Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 21/10,7

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated
implementation of the Habitat Agenda8 and the report of the Secretary-General on
the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human
Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme (UN-Habitat);9

2. Welcomes the efforts of UN-Habitat in the continued implementation of
its Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for the period 2008-2013, and
encourages Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders, to contribute
to UN-Habitat so as to further strengthen its efforts in institutional reform, and the
pursuit of management excellence, including results-based management;

3. Stresses the need for Governments, in the light of the current economic
and financial crisis, to assess the adequacy of their respective housing and related
infrastructure policies to meet the needs of their growing urban populations and, in
particular, the needs of the poor and other vulnerable groups, and requests
UN-Habitat to assist Governments in this regard;

4. Encourages Governments to promote the principles and practice of
sustainable urbanization and strengthen the role and contribution of their respective
local authorities in applying those principles and practice, in order to improve the
living conditions of vulnerable urban populations, including slum-dwellers and the
urban poor, and as a major contribution to mitigating the causes of climate change,
 adapting to the effects of climate change and reducing risks and vulnerabilities in a
rapidly urbanizing world, including human settlements in fragile ecosystems, and
invites the international donor community to support the efforts of developing
countries in this regard;

5. Stresses the need to support South-South cooperation, including through
triangular cooperation, especially by mobilizing financial resources on a sustainable
basis, providing technical assistance and encouraging city-to-city cooperation;

6. Reiterates its call for continued financial support to UN-Habitat through
increased voluntary contributions, and invites Governments in a position to do so,
and other stakeholders, to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased
non-cumulative contributions to support the strategic and institutional objectives of
the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for the period 2008-2013 and its
Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanization;

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annex I, sect. B.
9 A/64/260.
7. Invites the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and the technical cooperation trust funds to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries in mobilizing public investment and private capital for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

8. Takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the pilot programmes of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and in this regard urges the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Trust Fund;

9. Encourages UN-Habitat to continue exploring the possibility of convening a high-level special event of the General Assembly on housing finance systems in the face of the current economic and financial crisis;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the poverty eradication, gender equality, water and sanitation and slum upgrading targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the 2005 World Summit Outcome;

11. Reiterates its call to the Economic and Social Council to include sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading as a cross-cutting issue in the follow-up to the outcome of relevant summits and major international conferences;

12. Emphasizes the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

13. Decides to convene, in 2016, the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".