Twentieth session
Nairobi, 4 – 8 April 2005

Resolution 20/6: Best practices, good policies and enabling legislation in support of Sustainable urbanization and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals

The Governing Council,
Recalling paragraphs 207 and 240 of the Habitat Agenda, which call upon the international community to monitor and evaluate its own performance through documented best practices and to promote and facilitate the transfer of expertise in support of the implementation of plans of action through the sharing of lessons learned from best practices,

Recalling also the Dubai Declaration issued by the International Conference on Best Practices held in Dubai from 19 to 22 November 1995,13


Recalling its resolutions 17/1 of 14 May 1999 and 18/10 of 16 February 2001 and paragraph 63 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium14 of June 2001 inviting the international community to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through, among other things, peer-to-peer learning, city-to-city transfers and international exchanges based on best practices, good policies and action plans,

Noting with appreciation the substantial contributions by Dubai Municipality and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the successful implementation of the Dubai International Awards for Best Practices in partnership with members of the Best Practices Steering Committee and the Together Foundation in documenting and disseminating best practices and lessons learned, as witnessed by over 2,200 documented practices from over 140 countries contained in the best practices database,
Noting also with appreciation the initiatives by members of the Best Practices Steering Committee in establishing a North-North network focusing on issues of sustainable urbanization for human settlements located above the thirty-fifth parallel, and in publishing a best practices magazine in several languages,

Noting the seminal work undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in developing and field-testing a cost-effective methodology for unpacking and assessing pro-poor gender-sensitive urban policies and enabling legislation in support of the attainment of internationally agreed development goals,

Commending Dubai Municipality on its commitment to the undertaking of a decennial evaluation of the Dubai International Awards for Best Practices with a view to focusing the next ten years on promoting the transfer of best practices and lessons learned and to the organization, for that purpose, in 2006, of the Dubai International Conference on the Transfer of Best Practices for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals,

Commending also the Municipality of Medellín, with the support of the Ibero-American-Caribbean Forum on Best Practices, on its commitment to sponsoring the Medellín Award for Best Practice Transfers for the Latin American and Caribbean region to be launched on the occasion of an international conference in Medellín in November 2005,

Bearing in mind that the effective scaling up and transfer of best practices and lessons learned in support of the attainment of internationally agreed development goals depends to a large extent on a pro-poor, gender-sensitive and enabling policy and legislative environment,

14 General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

Welcoming the progress made in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Program Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme,


2. Also urges all Habitat Agenda partners to participate actively in and support the 2006 Dubai International Conference on the Transfer of Best Practices for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the Medellín International Conference on Best Practice Transfers;

3. Invites all spheres of Government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international financial institutions to increase their support for the activities of the Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme in, among other things, good urban policies and enabling legislation, the transfer of best practices and lessons learned, the publication and dissemination of the Best Practices Magazine and the work of the North-North network;

4. Encourages the Executive Director to examine, in cooperation with Governments, modalities for making resources available in support of the transfer of best practices, good urban policies and enabling legislation;

5. Requests the Executive Director to include a report on the implementation of the present resolution in her progress report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

8th meeting