Twentieth session
Nairobi, 4-8 April 2005

Resolution 20/17: Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction

The Governing Council,
Recalling its resolution 19/9 of 9 May 2003, in which it decided that one of the special themes of the twentieth session of the Governing Council would be “Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction”, and its resolution 19/7 of the same date recommending that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in close coordination with appropriate multilateral and bilateral agencies, should devote specific attention to human settlements needs in the reconstruction of countries and territories affected by armed conflicts or by other human-made or natural disasters,

Noting with appreciation the partnerships established by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with various disaster management and humanitarian institutions for the development and implementation of vulnerability reduction and sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation activities, in particular the memorandums of understanding concluded between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Noting the initiative of the Executive Director to strengthen relations with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, through supporting its Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division,

Welcoming the invitation by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator for the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to participate in the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs in view of the important role of shelter in humanitarian operations and reconstruction programmes,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004, which requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, within its mandate, to continue to support the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention,
rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development and encouraged the Programme to continue to work closely with the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other relevant agencies in the United Nations system in that area,

1. Notes the guiding principles contained in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the theme paper entitled “Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction”,40 which were reviewed and discussed at the second World Urban Forum, held in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2004;

2. Encourages Governments to disseminate and share their expertise and experience in tsunami and other natural-disaster mitigation measures, including hazard mapping, early-warning systems and appropriate design standards;

3. Requests the Executive Director to mainstream prospects for risk reduction and limiting the after-effects of disasters and to elaborate the guiding principles contained in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the theme paper on post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction and, in close coordination with appropriate multilateral and bilateral agencies, to develop a strategic policy for the role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in addressing the sustainable human settlements aspects of human-made and natural disaster management, which should focus on the Programme’s areas of comparative advantage, for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives before the end of 2005;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to mobilize the necessary financial resources to implement the strategic policy in order to facilitate disaster prevention and mitigation and post-crisis reconstruction by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in support of human settlements;


8th meeting
8 April 2005