



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 20

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2014

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/69/469)]

69/226. 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 the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976,¹ and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996,²

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly 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), including its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011, 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and 68/239 of 27 December 2013, which addressed the convening in 2016 of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),

Recalling further relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including Council resolution 2014/30 of 25 July 2014 on human settlements, adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2014,

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,³ in particular paragraphs 134 to 137 on sustainable cities and human settlements, in which, inter alia, it is recognized that cities are engines of economic growth which, if well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies,

¹ See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May–11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

² See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

³ Resolution 66/288, annex.



Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals⁴ and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements⁵ and the Habitat Agenda,⁶ since urbanization has brought growth and development, including a dramatic reduction in poverty, national economic growth, major progress in human settlements connectivity, which helps to boost productivity and the creation of opportunities, the merging of cities and towns into new regional spatial configurations that are conducive to faster economic and demographic growth, and a higher degree of interdependence between rural and urban areas that has helped to reduce the vulnerability of rural communities and enhance the prospects of more equitable development, challenges remain, such as urban sprawl, congestion, pollution, the emission of greenhouse gases, emerging urban poverty, segregation, increasing inequalities and other negative externalities, as well as the continuing increase in the number of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

Reiterating its support for the World Urban Forum and recognizing that it is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Colombia and the city of Medellin for hosting the seventh session of the Forum from 5 to 11 April 2014,

Recalling the commitment of Member States and the efforts of other stakeholders to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements,

Emphasizing the importance of the wide participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, in the promotion of sustainable urbanization and settlements,

Recalling its resolution 67/148 of 20 December 2012, in which it called upon the United Nations system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda⁷ and on the implementation of the outcome of

⁴ A/68/970 and Corr.1.

⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁶ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁷ See A/69/343.

the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);⁸

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on its first session,⁹ and endorses its recommendation that the second session of the Preparatory Committee be held from 14 to 16 April 2015;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the Preparatory Committee in their respective consideration of the work of UN-Habitat and preparations for Habitat III, within their respective mandates;

4. *Continues to encourage* giving due consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Notes* the conclusion of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and welcomes its contribution to existing political momentum with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change;

6. *Reiterates its encouragement* to Member States, UN-Habitat and all relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to implement Governing Council resolution 24/4 of 19 April 2013,¹⁰ and requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment in the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat;

7. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host Habitat III, and decides that the Conference will be held in Quito during the week of 17 October 2016;

8. *Recalls* its decisions in resolution 67/216 on the objective and results of the Conference, while remaining mindful of the need to carry out the Conference and the preparatory process in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner to ensure a successful Conference, and decides that:

(a) The Conference shall be composed of eight plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and six high-level round-table sessions to be held concurrently with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings;

(b) Parallel meetings and other events, including multi-stakeholder segments, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and the round tables, the multi-stakeholder segments will constitute an official part of the Conference, and interpretation for such meetings will be provided on an as-available basis;

(c) Special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to housing and sustainable urban development, will be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders for the benefit of the participants in the Conference;

⁸ A/69/298.

⁹ A/CONF.226/PC.1/6.

¹⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/68/8), annex.*

(d) The third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Indonesia in July 2016 and shall consist of six plenary meetings on the basis of two meetings a day;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for effective coordination between the preparatory process for the Conference and the preparations for the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in order to promote coherence and to minimize duplication of effort;

10. *Encourages* Member States to participate at the highest possible level in the Conference;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to participate in the Preparatory Committee and to continue giving due consideration at all levels to the New Urban Agenda and commit to defining it, together with all relevant stakeholders;

12. *Encourages* Member States and international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions and foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to continue to support the national, regional and global preparations for Habitat III through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the forthcoming Preparatory Committee meetings and in the Conference itself in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 13 (c) of resolution 67/216, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners and other relevant stakeholders in the Preparatory Committee meetings;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations for the Habitat III preparatory process;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the effective participation in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself of local governments and all other stakeholders, including those in the national habitat committees, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10 of resolution 68/239, and, inter alia, to expedite the preparation of Habitat III national reports;

15. *Invites* Member States to facilitate participatory processes and the wide participation of stakeholders, including local authorities and their associations, when developing, revising and implementing national urban policies, where appropriate, in particular through national urban forums, and as a means of preparing for Habitat III;

16. *Encourages* stakeholders gathering at the World Urban Forum, as well as at the regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings, to provide inputs and to contribute as appropriate to the process leading to the Conference;

17. *Invites* the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to prepare the draft outcome document of the Conference on the basis of inputs from broad regional and thematic consultations among all stakeholders and to circulate it no later than six months prior to the Conference;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to include in their planned regional meetings, such as the regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, as well as other relevant regional intergovernmental meetings, discussions on Habitat III so as to facilitate the provision of regional inputs to the preparatory process for the Conference;

19. *Decides* that the major groups and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those accredited to Habitat II and the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, shall register in order to participate in the Conference;

20. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference, and whose work is relevant to the subject of the Conference, may participate as observers in the Conference as well as in the preparatory meetings, in accordance with the provisions contained in part VII of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee in plenary meeting, and that, while respecting fully the provisions contained in rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, such a decision should be made by consensus;

21. *Notes with appreciation*, as reported by the Secretary-General in his report submitted pursuant to resolution 68/239,⁸ that the discussions among stakeholders gathered at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum provided, inter alia, an important contribution to Habitat III and that in those discussions it was recognized that Habitat III was a unique opportunity to develop a new urban agenda that could contribute to harnessing urbanization as a positive force for present and future generations and to advancing the quest for equity and shared prosperity;

22. *Takes note* of the Medellin Declaration, adopted at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, in which Governments, the private sector, international organizations, academia, professionals, civil society and other social actors reaffirmed the importance of cities in sustainable development;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the Conference, while promoting inter-agency support to the maximum extent possible;

24. *Recalls* the seven priorities and four cross-cutting issues contained in the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014–2019 approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session,¹⁰ which the General Assembly welcomed in its resolution 68/239;

25. *Invites* Member States, the international and bilateral donors and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019;

26. *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 other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to continue efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in supporting the implementation of its mandate;

28. *Notes* the governance review process of UN-Habitat, encourages the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat and the Governing Council to continue their consideration of proposals, including recommendations and options for reform, with a view to reaching a consensus at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council on how to proceed with the governance review, and underlines that it shall consider the report of the Governing Council on this and other issues at its seventieth session;

29. *Recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat have changed considerably in their scope and complexity and that the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to developing countries has changed in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in its strategic plan for 2014–2019;

30. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States and Habitat Agenda partners to formulate and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote just, resilient and inclusive cities, considering the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, and with a particular focus on the needs of women and those who are most vulnerable, including children and youth, older persons, persons living with disability, rural to urban migrants, internally displaced persons and indigenous peoples;

31. *Notes with appreciation* the first-ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council on sustainable urbanization, held from 27 to 29 May 2014, and its focus on the role of sustainable urbanization as a transformative force for achieving and advancing sustainable development through an integrated approach that engages all key stakeholders, including local authorities, in order to produce innovative solutions to foster economic, environmental and social sustainability;

32. *Invites* Member States to take into account the interlinkages among the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the formulation of policies, plans and programmes at the local, national and international levels in order to address, as appropriate, the structural problems and challenges facing many cities;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

34. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth 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)”.

*75th plenary meeting
19 December 2014*