



Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 20

**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)**

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Juliet **Hay** (New Zealand)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-eighth 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)” and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 22nd, 32nd and 40th meetings, on 28 October, 6 November and 6 December 2013. An account of the Committee’s discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records ([A/C.2/68/SR.22](#), 32 and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, from 9 to 11 October (see [A/C.2/68/SR.3-7](#)).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its twenty-fourth session ([A/68/8](#));

(b) 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) ([A/68/332](#));

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda ([A/68/328](#));



(d) Letter dated 30 September 2013 from the representative of Benin and Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the annual ministerial meeting of the least developed countries, held in New York on 27 September 2013 (A/C.2/68/3).

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 28 October, the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/68/SR.22).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions [A/C.2/68/L.14](#) and [A/C.2/68/L.61](#)

5. At the 32nd meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Fiji, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution 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)” (A/C.2/68/L.14), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

“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), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

“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,

“Reaffirming also paragraphs 134 to 137 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 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,

“Recognizing that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, challenges remain, such as, inter alia, the rapid urbanization process in large parts of the developing world, the continuing increase in the number of urban slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation on human settlements, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, and the increasing vulnerability of urban settlements to natural and human-made disasters,

“Reiterating its support for the World Urban Forum as 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 offering to host the seventh session of the Forum from 5 to 11 April 2014,

“Recalling its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011 and 67/216 of 21 December 2012, which addressed the convening in 2016 of a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III),

“Recalling also paragraph 14 of resolution 67/216, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session, on how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly,

“Taking note of the report of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat on its twenty-fourth session, held from 15 to 19 April 2013, and in particular of resolution 24/1, by which the Council decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, beginning in 2014, 31 October of every year be designated as World Cities Day, resolution 24/14, by which the Council decided on how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) and of resolution 24/10, in which the Council encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to give appropriate consideration in their contributions to the post-2015 development agenda to sustainable urbanization, to sustainable urban development and to the role of cities and local governments in that regard,

“Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/22 of 24 July 2013 on human settlements, adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2013,

“Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

“1. Takes note of the notes by the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda 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);

“2. Encourages giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

“3. Endorses Governing Council of UN-Habitat resolution 24/14 of 19 April 2013 on the inputs and support required for the preparatory process of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban

development (Habitat III), and welcomes the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host the conference in Quito in 2016;

“4. *Recognizes* the need for regular budget support during the biennium 2014-2015 to enable UN-Habitat to provide those inputs;

“5. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, and also the private sector, financial institutions and foundations, to support the national, regional and global preparations for the Habitat III conference through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in meetings of the preparatory committee and in the conference itself;

“6. *Encourages* stakeholders gathering at the seventh session of 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;

“7. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference 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;

“8. *Encourages* all United Nations system organizations to support the Habitat III preparatory process at the country level, including the establishment or strengthening of national habitat committees and the preparation of Habitat III national reports, considering the support that could be provided by the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia, in accordance with national legislation and practices, as appropriate;

“9. *Welcomes* the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014-2019 and its focus areas, as approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session;

“10. *Calls 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-earmarked contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to support the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019;

“11. *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;

“12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide adequate resources so as to enhance the effectiveness of UN-Habitat in supporting national policies, strategies and plans for attaining the goals of the Habitat Agenda, the targets of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation relevant to human settlements, as well as relevant commitments contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’;

“13. *Takes note* of the governance review of UN-Habitat and invites the President of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to submit recommendations on and options for reform of the governance of UN-Habitat for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

“14. *Decides* to designate 31 October of every year, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day, invites States, the United Nations system, in particular UN-Habitat, relevant international organizations, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders to observe and raise awareness of World Cities Day, and stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from observing World Cities Day should be met from voluntary contributions;

“15. *Welcomes* the offer made by the Government of South Africa to host the UN-Habitat conference on the theme Leading change in the city by the end of 2013, with the objective, among others, of enhancing the capacity of women’s leadership in urban governance;

“16. *Encourages* the conference to produce an outcome that could bring about strategies to address challenges facing developing countries in the areas of slum explosion, lack of adequate shelter, increasing urban poverty, growing inequalities among urban populations, high crime levels and reversal of urban migration;

“17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), and an evaluation of World Cities Day;

“18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth 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)’.”

6. At its 40th meeting, on 6 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution 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)” ([A/C.2/68/L.61](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair, Mr. Waruna Sri Dhanapala (Sri Lanka), of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.14](#).

7. The Committee also had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.61](#), submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly ([A/C.2/68/L.53](#)).

8. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to proceed to take action on draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.61](#).

9. Also at its 40th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.61](#) (see para. 12).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Fiji (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the European Union, the United States of America, Japan and Canada (see [A/C.2/68/SR.40](#)).

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.61](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.14](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

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 and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

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), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/22 of 24 July 2013 on human settlements, adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2013,

Recalling its resolutions [64/207](#) of 21 December 2009, [65/165](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/207](#) of 22 December 2011 and [67/216](#) of 21 December 2012, which addressed the convening in 2016 of a United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III),

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, 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,

Recognizing that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, challenges remain, such as, inter alia, the rapid urbanization process in large parts of the developing world, the continuing increase in the number of urban slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation on human settlements, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, and the increasing vulnerability of urban settlements to natural and human-made disasters,

Reiterating its support for the World Urban Forum as 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 offering to host the seventh session of the Forum from 5 to 11 April 2014,

Recalling paragraph 14 of resolution 67/216, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session on how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly,

Taking note of the report of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat on its twenty-fourth session, held from 15 to 19 April 2013, and its resolutions, in particular resolutions 24/1 on World Cities Day, 24/4 on gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development, 24/5 on pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies, 24/7, entitled "Making slums history: a worldwide challenge", 24/10 on urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 development agenda, and 24/14 on inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), all of 19 April 2013,

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,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

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

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda¹ 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);²

2. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on agenda items related to the work of UN-Habitat;

4. *Affirms* Governing Council of UN-Habitat resolution 24/14 on the inputs and support required for the preparatory process of the United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to be met by regular budget and voluntary contributions, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to seek voluntary support for this purpose and calls upon Member States to provide such support;

¹ A/68/328.

² A/68/332.

5. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host the conference in Quito in 2016;

6. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, and also the private sector, financial institutions and foundations, 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 meetings of the preparatory committee and in the conference itself, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 13 of resolution 67/216;

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

8. *Encourages* stakeholders gathering at the seventh session of 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;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference 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;

10. *Encourages* all organizations of the United Nations system to support, as appropriate and at the request of Member States, the Habitat III preparatory process at the country level, including the establishment or strengthening of national habitat committees and the preparation of Habitat III national reports, considering the support that could be provided by the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia, in accordance with national legislation and practices, as appropriate;

11. *Welcomes* the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014-2019 and its focus areas, as approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session;

12. *Invites* the international donor community 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;

13. *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;

14. *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;

15. *Takes note* of the governance review process of UN-Habitat and encourages the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue its consideration of proposals, including recommendations and options for reform, with a view to reaching a consensus on how to proceed with the governance review;

16. *Decides* to designate 31 October of every year, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day, invites States, the United Nations system, in particular UN-Habitat, relevant international organizations, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders to observe and raise awareness of World Cities Day, and stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from observing World Cities Day should be met from voluntary contributions;

17. *Welcomes* the commitments of Member States and the efforts of other stakeholders to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements;

18. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to use planned city extension methodologies to guide the sustainable development of cities experiencing rapid urban growth, in order to prevent slum proliferation, enhance access to urban basic services, support inclusive housing, enhance job opportunities and create a safe and healthy living environment;

19. *Recognizes* the significance of equitable and adequate access to urban basic services as a foundation for sustainable urbanization and therefore to overall social and economic development;

20. *Reaffirms* Governing Council of UN-Habitat resolution [24/4](#) on gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development, and in this regard urges Member States, UN-Habitat, and all relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to implement the decision contained therein;

21. *Recalls* the international conference on the theme "Making slums history: a worldwide challenge for 2020", held in Rabat from 26 to 28 November 2012, to review and share global progress in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010 and devise a strategy for inclusive, sustainable and prosperous cities;

22. *Welcomes* the hosting by the Government of South Africa of the UN-Habitat conference on the theme "Leading change in the city" in Johannesburg in 2014;

23. *Invites* 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, inter alia, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, rural to urban migrants, internally displaced people and indigenous peoples;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth 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), and to include in his report to the Assembly at its seventy-first session an evaluation of

World Cities Day, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth 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)”.
