



Twenty-sixth session
Nairobi, 8–12 May 2017

Proceedings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-sixth session

I. Organization of the session (agenda items 1–4)

A. Opening of the session

1. The twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was opened at 11.20 a.m. on Monday, 8 May 2017, by Mr. Michal Mlynár, President of the Governing Council.

2. Welcoming participants, he drew attention to the particular significance of the current session as the first to be held following the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016, at which Heads of State and Government, ministers and high representatives had adopted the New Urban Agenda.

3. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered by pre-recorded video; Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the United Nations General Assembly; and Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya.

4. The Director-General, in her statement, said that the Secretary-General of the United Nations was determined to change the narrative about the African continent and that the United Nations Office at Nairobi, which hosted both UNEP and UN-Habitat, the only two United Nations programmes to be headquartered in the global South, was well equipped and prepared to contribute to that change. A few days after taking office, the Secretary-General had attended the twenty-eighth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa in January 2017, at which he had conveyed a message of solidarity with and respect for African leaders and said that he wanted to introduce more flexibility, accountability, decentralization and simplification in the way that the United Nations conducted its business.

5. In his statement, the Executive Director of UNEP said that the future of humanity was urban and that half of humanity was already living in cities, with the rate fast approaching 60 per cent globally and already at around 80 per cent in Latin America. Although such development should be celebrated given that urbanization was closely linked to poverty reduction, he said that cities worldwide needed to address common challenges involved in creating greener cities, protecting and developing parks, establishing mass transit systems and improving waste management, among other things, and that UN-Habitat played a critical role in providing assistance and support to that end. He noted that investors had set their sights on the green economy, highlighting their anticipation of a greener future. In order to accelerate the move towards that greener future, he emphasized the need to establish a circular economy and strengthen partnerships between Governments, the United Nations and the private sector, as well as within the United Nations, as requested by the Secretary-General.

6. In his statement, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat expressed profound gratitude to the Government of Kenya for its constant support as host of UN-Habitat and said that the New Urban Agenda, adopted in Quito in October 2016, paved the way for a paradigm shift towards a new model of urbanization designed to sustain the significant socioeconomic transformations it would trigger in the coming decade, especially in Africa. Urbanization was inevitable and offered an unmissable opportunity for prosperity, growth and development, with no one left behind provided that the process was properly managed, failing which it could pose a risk to peace and security. The New Urban Agenda was thus an action-oriented plan constituting a framework of cooperation for addressing the complex challenges of sustainable urbanization by, among other things, generating new urban employment and forms of livelihood. Those challenges could not be tackled in isolation, however, and one of the innovative approaches promoted by the New Urban Agenda was the concept of dialogue between central and local government.

7. UN-Habitat had over 40 years of internationally recognized expertise in urbanization and human settlements, boasted the combination of normative and operational capacities as one of its greatest assets and was a global focal point for sustainable urbanization. It was therefore well equipped to support the delivery of the New Urban Agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goal 11, on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, as well as other Goals with urban components. He looked forward to working with participants on the draft revised strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 and to their support in strengthening the work and capacities of UN-Habitat with a view to enhancing its responsiveness, effectiveness and accountability. In that context, he welcomed the establishment by the Secretary-General of the high-level independent panel entrusted with undertaking an evidence-based assessment of UN-Habitat, including formulating recommendations for its strengthening. The panel members would witness the transformational results in sustainable urban development achieved through UN-Habitat programmes, including thanks to the engagement of a broad range of partners and stakeholders worldwide, who had also contributed voluntary efforts towards the development of the New Urban Agenda. It was through such effective choice, quality design and public commitment that socioeconomic and environmental progress and positive outcomes from sustainable urbanization were accomplished. The New Urban Agenda therefore stood as a vital tool for the planning, design and financing of sustainable cities around the globe.

8. In his remarks, the President of the General Assembly said that, in aiming to make cities and human settlements more inclusive, resilient and sustainable, the action-oriented New Urban Agenda was an important complement to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Fidelity to the latter and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals offered the best hope for a secure future insofar as they represented the master plan for the sustainability of human life and were inextricably linked to the health, vitality, quality and success of urban settlements. In the light of the substantial contribution made by cities to national economies and the many communities attracted to their midst for a variety of reasons, cities were assuming an increasingly critical role but their housing, sanitation and other standards remained inadequate for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Unmet expectations could fuel violence, to which women and children were often the most vulnerable, while the damage to the natural environment from carbon emissions, pollution, waste and poor planning was pushing humanity closer to the precipice of unsustainability.

9. The session's focus on opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda was therefore timely and integral to progress on all fronts. Forthcoming events such as the second annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 were further examples of the tangible opportunities that must be embraced for creating more sustainable, just and inclusive societies. The clear appetite for change should therefore be harnessed through advancing a rights-based, people-centred approach to development; increasing global public awareness of the essential actions of transformation captured in the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda; taking steps at the national and international levels to unlock the immense funding needed to finance that transformation, including the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable investment and facilitating early private-sector involvement in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; strengthening multi-stakeholder action and collaboration, particularly in cities; embracing technology and innovation; and ensuring that the United Nations was fit to facilitate such engagement and support countries in need.

10. In the interest of the common good, he urged support for the anticipated United Nations reform proposals in the areas of development, peace and management, which would undoubtedly have an impact on the work of UN-Habitat. He likewise urged all participants to engage in the forthcoming high-level meeting of the General Assembly to be held in August 2017 in order to hear responses to

the proposals of the Secretary-General and his high-level panel concerning the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the strengthening of UN-Habitat. The discussions would be crucially important, he said, to ensuring that the United Nations was able to assist progress and catalyse change in the world's cities and human settlements through its support for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, which were deeply connected.

11. In his keynote address, Mr. Kenyatta said that the current session of the Governing Council was a milestone for UN-Habitat as the first to be held since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, adding that the latter provided the basis upon which to review the Programme's mandate and positioning within the United Nations system. Calling on participants to show the leadership needed to seize the opportunities and address the challenges inherent to its implementation, he said that the first step was to send out a strong political message of support and that Kenya, which remained fully committed to UN-Habitat, would work constructively with colleagues in that regard. The fact that the world's urban population was set to increase by an estimated 3.5 billion people by 2050, almost 90 per cent of them in Africa and Asia, was a matter of great concern to all. Urbanization in Kenya, whose capital city was projected to grow to 6 million by 2030, had, he said, been greatly influenced by the creation of 47 counties and the new county governments would be crucial to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the national level. His Government, in line with the 2030 Agenda, was promoting integrated regional and urban planning and management, together with the use of new, sustainable, technologies for environmentally friendly housing construction and green energy for human settlements.

12. Collaboration, partnership and a willingness to share with others the lessons learned in such areas were key to achieving the paradigm shift and the common vision of the links between economic growth, standards of living and environmental sustainability encapsulated in the New Urban Agenda, and the first step, in his view, was to empower UN-Habitat to serve as the focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements with adequate and predictable resources. To that end he urged fellow member States to follow the example of Kenya at the previous session of the Governing Council and increase their voluntary contributions. UN-Habitat, for its part, needed to reform its organization and structure and to develop more innovative resource mobilization strategies. He therefore welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of a high-level panel of experts to conduct an evidence-based, independent assessment of the Programme and looked forward to considering the panel's recommendations, which would help to make UN-Habitat more effective, efficient and accountable in its decision-making, in the discussion of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the high-level meeting to be held at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

13. In concluding, he commended the Executive Director of UN-Habitat on his key contribution as Secretary-General of Habitat III, congratulating him on the success of the Conference and bidding him farewell in the light of the end of his tenure as Executive Director in 2017, and declared open the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

14. The text of the Secretary-General's message is reproduced in annex II to the present proceedings.

15. Following the opening statements, the World Habitat Awards for 2016–2017 were presented. The first winner was the Nubian Vault Association, which had implemented a successful programme for the development of appropriate housing in the Sahel region as part of its work to provide affordable, sustainable housing for as many people as possible. The second winner was More than Housing, a Swiss housing cooperative providing homes for people from a wide range of backgrounds and income levels, in which context it also worked to promote an ethos of initiative-taking and self-organization.

B. Attendance

16. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented: Afghanistan; Angola; Argentina; Bahrain; Benin; Brazil; Chad; Chile; China; Colombia; Croatia; Czechia; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Ecuador; Egypt; Finland; France; Germany; Ghana; Guatemala; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Israel; Japan; Kenya; Libya; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mauritius; Mexico; Nigeria; Norway; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia; Slovakia; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Sweden; Turkmenistan; United States of America; Zimbabwe.

17. The following States not members of the Governing Council were represented: Algeria; Australia; Austria; Bangladesh; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Comoros; Congo; Cuba; Cyprus; Djibouti; Ethiopia; Gambia; Guinea; Haiti; Italy; Kuwait;

Lesotho; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Oman; Pakistan; Philippines; Poland; Qatar; Romania; Rwanda; Singapore; South Sudan; Spain; Sudan; Swaziland; Syrian Arab Republic; Timor-Leste; Togo; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Republic of Tanzania; Venezuela, (Bolivarian Republic of); Zambia.

18. Observers to UN-Habitat for the Holy See and the State of Palestine also participated.

19. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Organization for Migration (IOM); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Global Compact; UN-Habitat; United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); World Bank; World Food Programme (WFP); World Health Organization (WHO).

20. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP); European Union; League of Arab States; World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF); Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development; Shelter Afrique.

21. A full list of those attending the session may be found in the list of participants (HSP/GC/26/INF/9).

C. Election of officers

22. At its 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Monday, 8 May 2017, the Governing Council elected the following officers for the session:

President:

Mr. Venkaiah Naidu (India)

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Franz Marré (Germany)

Mr. James Macharia (Kenya)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Andrey Chibis (Russian Federation)

23. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 9 May 2017, it was agreed that the representative of Colombia, Ms. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay, would provisionally assume the position of Vice-President for the duration of the session, pending the election of a Vice-President by the Latin American and Caribbean States.

24. At its 7th and final plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 12 May 2017, Mr. Carlos Estuardo Barillas (Guatemala), who had been nominated by the Bureau of the Governing Council was elected by the Governing Council to the position of Vice-President for the remainder of the session.

D. Credentials

25. In pursuance of rule 16, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau reported to the Council at its 5th plenary meeting, on the morning of Wednesday 10 May, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the twenty-sixth session of the Council and had found them to be in order. The Council approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at its 7th plenary meeting, held on the afternoon of Friday, 12 May 2017.

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

26. At its 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Monday, 8 May 2017, the Governing Council had before it the provisional agenda for the session (HSP/GC/26/1).

27. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda for its twenty-sixth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.

3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).
7. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council.
8. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2018–2019.
9. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the session.
12. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

28. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Governing Council established a sessional committee of the whole, chaired by Mr. Macharia (Kenya), to which it allocated agenda items 5, 6, 8 and 9. The Council would be free to consider issues arising under items 5 and 7 and other items during its plenary meetings.

29. The work of the plenary meetings for the first three days of the session was divided into two segments: a high-level segment, featuring general debate by ministers and other high-level representatives, would be held on the first and second days, and a dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other partners on the special theme of the session would be held on the third day.

30. The Governing Council also established a drafting committee to consider the draft resolutions submitted to the Council. It was agreed that the draft resolutions recommended by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and presented in plenary by its chair, Mr. James Kimonyo (Rwanda), would first be considered by the Committee of the Whole, which would submit them to the drafting committee for further consideration, and that, following their consideration by the drafting committee, they would be submitted to the Council through the Committee for possible adoption at a plenary meeting.

31. In considering the agenda items, the Governing Council had before it the documents listed for each item in the annotations to the agenda for the session (HSP/GC/26/1/Add.1) together with a list of those documents arranged by item (HSP/GC/26/INF/1).

G. Policy statement by the Executive Director

32. In presenting his policy statement, the Executive Director said that he was looking forward to working with the incoming Bureau and member States in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at a crucial time for the future of UN-Habitat and sustainable urbanization worldwide. The preparatory process for Habitat III had provided an opportunity for a deep and insightful analysis of the evolution of urbanization over the previous 20 years, which had revealed the rapid pace of urbanization that had led to some 60 per cent of the world's population living in cities in 2016. The trend had lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, including in China, where the dual process of industrialization and urbanization had driven growth, innovation and job creation. With most urban growth currently taking place in developing countries, Africa, and especially sub-Saharan Africa, was expected to lead the rate of urbanization in the next twenty years.

33. In the lead-up to Habitat III, UN-Habitat had prepared a representative global sample of cities – a study of 200 cities worldwide with populations of more than 100,000 inhabitants. A detailed analysis of the sample had shown that land consumption for urbanization was outstripping urban population growth, leading to unchecked urban sprawl and a decreased density of urban dwellers per urban area. The trend represented a challenge to sustainable urbanization as it increased the cost of services per capita with a consequent impact on urban economic sustainability; it led to a rise in energy consumption, which affected environmental sustainability; and it dispersed populations into segregated neighbourhoods, which eroded social sustainability. In addition, the decrease in adequate

urban planning and design in the most rapidly growing cities had led to a rise in informal settlements and unplanned areas. Moreover, in both the developed and developing countries, large segments of the population lacked access to adequate and affordable housing, which increased urban inequality and had a negative impact on people's general well-being, threatening social cohesion in cities and human settlements.

34. The relationship between high-quality urbanization and development had been emphasized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want," and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Recent analysis of the contribution of urbanization to increased prosperity had revealed that the transformation towards a post-industrial, service-sector economy derived from the substantial economic value, and thus greater wealth, that was generated in cities as a result of economies of agglomeration. With regard to the relationship between urbanization and climate change, the higher rate of fossil fuel consumption in cities as a result of urbanization represented a significant environmental challenge in many parts of the world, requiring a robust commitment to the decarbonization of energy systems worldwide.

35. The New Urban Agenda incorporated lessons learned from urban crises and ways in which such crises could be overcome, and advocated a commitment to three focus areas: urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; and urban economy and municipal finance. It also called for strong cooperation between central, subnational and local levels of government, and the use of national urban policies.

36. Urbanization had been recognized as a value-generating process, an accelerator of development and an endogenous source of wealth in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. As a result, some Member States had requested UN-Habitat to provide technical support in accelerating their substantive urban improvement processes, and UN-Habitat was exploring triangular linkages with development banks and cities to elaborate innovative methods of financing for sustainable urbanization. As part of its strategies, UN-Habitat was implementing the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 with an emphasis on the fundamentals of urbanization in order to better serve the requirements of States and cities around the world. With seven subprogrammes, five regional offices, four priority areas and four cross-cutting issues – gender, youth, climate change and human rights – the strategic plan provided an efficient and flexible mechanism for productively assigning resources to projects, harnessing synergies and breaking down organizational silos, and enhancing coordination between normative and operational activities.

37. In closing, he emphasized the significant efforts that had been made by UN-Habitat to reduce costs, increase efficiency and boost productivity across the Programme, and drew attention to the increased demand from Member States for UN-Habitat support as well as the substantial decrease in non-earmarked contributions in the current biennium 2016–2017. The strengthening of UN-Habitat was fundamental to fulfilling the ambitions of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda and he called on Member States to support the Programme, in particular through a marked increase in non-earmarked contributions.

H. Committee of Permanent Representatives and working group on programme and budget

38. Mr. James Kimonyo, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, reported on the work of the Committee in the intersessional period between the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Governing Council. He noted that eight regular meetings of the Committee and more than 100 subcommittee meetings had been held during the period in keeping with the Committee's mandate on monitoring the progress of implementation of the work programme for the biennium 2016–2017, as well as the implementation of the resolutions of the Governing Council adopted at its twenty-fifth session. He said that the Committee had been briefed on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and drew attention to the note by the secretariat on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period and the addendums thereto (HSP/GC/26/3, Add.1 and Add.2).

39. Mr. Kimonyo elaborated on the work undertaken by the Committee through its subcommittee on policy and programme of work with regard to draft resolutions for consideration by the Governing Council, noting that nine draft resolutions had been submitted by member States, of which the Committee had been able to consider seven, three of which were set out in the note by the secretariat on draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (HSP/GC/26/3/Add.1). He emphasized that the draft resolutions had been prepared by the Committee with a view to assisting

the Governing Council in its deliberations, underlining that member States reserved the right to continue discussions on any of the draft resolutions during their consideration by the Governing Council.

40. Mr Kimonyo further said that, pursuant to resolution 25/7, on United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform, in order to strengthen the oversight role of the governing bodies of UN-Habitat, the Committee of Permanent Representatives had established the working group on programme and budget at its fifty-seventh meeting in June 2015. He invited the chair of the working group to report on its work to the Governing Council.

41. Ms. Julia Pataki (Romania), chair of the working group on programme and budget, reported on the work that the group had undertaken in completing its mandate and highlighted the constructive outcomes, the challenges encountered and the group's recommendations.

42. Regarding the outcomes she said that the working group had, among other things, provided for more frequent and direct interaction with the secretariat; fostered a greater two-way flow of information, in particular on operational and financial aspects of the Programme; and enabled member States to gain greater insight into the secretariat's operations, procedures and reporting, thus leading to enhanced cooperation and mutual understanding.

43. Among the challenges she drew attention to the relative infrequency of meetings, which, alongside other factors, had given member States a fragmented oversight process; the insufficient follow-up to and reporting on the implementation of recommendations; and the failure to share that information widely and in a timely manner with all member States.

44. In response to those and other challenges, the group recommended that its mandate be extended into the next biennium; that more regular meetings be considered to ensure continuous monitoring; that it be requested to develop an implementation and follow-up process for its recommendations; and that the secretariat, for its part, be requested to improve the quality and timely delivery of updates, reports and other documentation to member States.

I. Work of the Committee of the Whole (agenda items 5, 6, 8 and 9)

45. The Committee of the Whole established by the Governing Council at its 1st plenary meeting was chaired by Mr. Macharia (Kenya), one of the three Vice-Presidents of the Council. The Committee held four meetings between 8 and 12 May. At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 8 May 2017, the Chair informed the Committee that it would consider agenda items 5, 6, 8 and 9.

46. At its 4th and final meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 12 May 2017, the Committee adopted the report on its deliberations. At its meetings, it had succeeded in achieving consensus on all the agenda items before it. The report of the Committee is reproduced in annex V to the present proceedings.

J. Work of the drafting committee and adoption of resolutions

47. The drafting committee held seven meetings during the session and reached agreement by consensus on nine draft resolutions. The drafting Committee was chaired by Mr. Carlos Estuardo Barillas.

48. Those resolutions, as adopted by the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 12 May 2017, are reproduced in annex I to the present proceedings.

II. High-level segment and dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council (agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8)

A. High-level segment

49. The Governing Council took up agenda items 5–8 at its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon on Monday, 8 May 2017, at which time it began the high-level general debate on those items. The general debate continued at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on Tuesday, 9 May 2017. A summary of the general debate by the President of the Governing Council is set forth in annex III to the present proceedings.

B. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-sixth session

50. At its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on Wednesday, 10 May 2017, the Governing Council held a dialogue on the special theme for the session, “Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda”, under agenda item 7. The dialogue comprised an opening session followed by three sessions on the sub-themes of the dialogue, as follows: (a) sub-theme 1: promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing; (b) sub-theme 2: integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization; and (c) sub-theme 3: synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization. The discussion sessions featured a moderator and a panel of speakers, presentations by the panellists, comments from the floor and reactions from the panellists. A summary of the dialogue is set forth in annex IV to the present proceedings.

III. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council (agenda item 9)

51. The Governing Council took up the item at its 7th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 12 May 2017, and adopted decision 26/1 on the provisional agenda for its twenty-seventh session, the text of which is reproduced in the annex to the present report. The Council also decided, on the recommendation of the Bureau, that the session should be held from 8 to 12 April 2019 at UN-Habitat headquarters, Nairobi.

IV. Other matters (agenda item 10)

52. No other matters were discussed.

V. Adoption of the report of the session (agenda item 11)

53. At the 7th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 12 May 2017, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole gave an oral presentation on the deliberations of the Committee. The Chair of the drafting committee also provided an oral report on the discussions in the committee.

54. At the same meeting, the Governing Council adopted the report of the session, on the basis of the draft that had been circulated during the session and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

VI. Closure of the session (agenda item 12)

55. In his closing statement, the Executive Director congratulated the Governing Council members on the consensus position achieved on every resolution submitted for adoption, as well as having approved a programme of work for implementing the New Urban Agenda over the coming biennium, giving UN-Habitat a very specific role in that regard, and he urged the member States to maintain the unprecedented levels of consensus-building reached at the current session when discussing the strengthening of the Programme at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in August 2017 and the seventy-first session of the Assembly the following December. The future of UN-Habitat, he stressed, relied on their ability to reach agreement on the matter at those meetings and he pledged the secretariat’s commitment to supporting the process and ensuring that the immense political efforts that had led to the adoption of the New Urban Agenda and the other major international agreements of the previous two years remained focused on the question of urbanization. That question was now a highly strategic issue and it was important to devote attention to the associated political, social and economic risks and challenges. Expressing appreciation to the various stakeholders for reminding UN-Habitat that it was ultimately working in the interest of people, he said that their criticisms and support, too, were key to the work of improving the Programme and, in conclusion, he paid tribute to Malaysia for the preparations being made to host the ninth session of the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur in 2018.

56. Closing statements were delivered by the representatives of Colombia, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group; the European Union; India; Israel, on behalf of the group of Western European and other States; Kenya; Malaysia, on behalf of Asia-Pacific States; Pakistan, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the State of Palestine and Zimbabwe, on behalf of the African group.

57. The meeting and the session were declared closed at 6.45 p.m. on Friday, 12 May 2017.

Annex I

Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-sixth session

A. Decision

Decision

<i>No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
26/1.	Proposed dates and provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

B. Resolutions

Resolution

<i>No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
26/1.	United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform and extension of the mandate of the working group on programme and budget
26/2.	Enhancing the role of UN-Habitat in urban crisis response
26/3.	Revised strategic plan for 2014–2019 and work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2018–2019
26/4.	Promoting safety in cities and human settlements
26/5.	Regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development by regional consultative structures
26/6.	World Urban Forum
26/7.	Accreditation
26/8.	Promoting the effective implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda
26/9.	Human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

A. Decision**26/1. Proposed dates and provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

The Governing Council

1. *Decides* that the dates of its twenty-seventh session shall be from 8 to 12 April 2019;
2. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for its twenty-seventh session shall be as follows:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Credentials.
 4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
 6. Review of progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 7. Report of the World Urban Forum.
 8. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council.
 9. Strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, and work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2020–2021.
 10. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council.
 11. Other matters.
 12. Adoption of the report of the session.
 13. Closure of the session.

B. Resolutions**26/1. United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform and extension of the mandate of the working group on programme and budget**

The Governing Council,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 25/7 of 23 April 2015 on the United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform,

Welcoming with appreciation the work of the working group on programme and budget and its report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session,

Recognizing the need for the continued strengthening of the governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and for greater oversight of the implementation of its work programme and budget,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, by which the Assembly endorsed the New Urban Agenda, in which Heads of State and Government, ministers and high representatives requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly during its seventy-first session an evidence-based and independent assessment of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme containing recommendations to enhance its effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight for the consideration of Member States,

Having reviewed the contribution of the working group to the improved oversight of the Programme by its governing bodies,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the working group on programme and budget established by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in pursuance of Governing Council resolution 25/7 in order to continue to strengthen the oversight role of the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives during intersessional periods;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to implement the recommendations and guidance provided by the working group in a timely manner and report back regularly to the working group and the Committee on their implementation;
3. *Encourages* member States to participate in the meetings, briefings and deliberations of the working group;
4. *Decides* to review the implementation of the present resolution and resolution 25/7 at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, at which time a decision on the continuation of the activities of the working group shall be taken.

26/2. Enhancing the role of UN-Habitat in urban crisis response

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolutions 19/7 and 25/4 and General Assembly resolution 59/239, as they relate to the role of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) in supporting the rehabilitation and reconstruction of countries affected by armed conflict or by other human-caused or natural disasters, and recalling in particular the UN-Habitat Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis, endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in November 2007, and recognizing that the Policy needs to be updated taking into account the changing nature of crises and relevant new commitments made by member States over the last 10 years,

Recalling also the New Urban Agenda, which reaffirms the role and expertise of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements and which acknowledges that in implementing the New Urban Agenda particular attention should be paid to addressing the unique and emerging urban development challenges facing all countries and that special attention should be given to countries in situations of conflict, countries and territories under foreign occupation, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural and human-caused disasters,

Acknowledging the efforts made by UN-Habitat in response to paragraph 45 of Governing Council resolution 25/4 to strengthen and coordinate its partnerships with humanitarian and development actors, including through its City Resilience Profiling Programme, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises as an innovative multi-stakeholder platform, and the progress made in response to paragraph 14 of resolution 25/4 to support and reinforce the coordination of the efforts of the United Nations system, through the Global Land Tool Network, to bring coherence and taking into account conflict and land issues,

Taking note of the principles and commitments outlined in the Urban Crises Charter of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises,

Recalling the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review,¹ the positive role that sustainable development can play in mitigating drivers of conflicts, disaster risks, humanitarian crises and complex emergencies, and that a comprehensive whole-of-system response, including greater cooperation and complementarity among development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace, is fundamental to addressing needs and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals as efficiently and effectively as possible,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/262 of 27 April 2016, which emphasizes that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by each Government and all other national stakeholders and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations engagement at all stages of conflict, and in all its dimensions, and requires sustained international attention and assistance,

Emphasizing paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 70/165, which encourages strengthened international cooperation, in particular between humanitarian and development actors, including (among other things) the integration of the human rights and needs of internally displaced persons into both rural and urban development strategies,

¹ General Assembly resolution 71/243, para. 14.

Taking note of paragraph 28 of the New Urban Agenda, which states that “[w]e commit ourselves to ensuring full respect for the human rights of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, regardless of their migration status, and support their host cities in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances and recognizing that, although the movement of large populations into towns and cities poses a variety of challenges, it can also bring significant social, economic and cultural contributions to urban life”;

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to establish a fund, financed through voluntary contributions earmarked for use by the fund, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, aimed at facilitating the rapid deployment of UN-Habitat in response to urban crises and emergencies within existing human resources and calls upon Member States of the United Nations and others in a position to do so to contribute generously to the fund;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to use the fund established in accordance with the preceding paragraph, in consultation with member States, to update the UN-Habitat Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis, in line with its mandate:

(a) To better support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, with input from all UN-Habitat subprogrammes, in countries affected by conflict and natural and human-caused disasters;

(b) To ensure that UN-Habitat work contributes, in a coordinated manner, to the United Nations system commitment to sustaining peace and a comprehensive whole-of-system response to complex emergencies;

(c) To better support Member States in their efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

(d) To better support Member States facing challenges caused by the mass influx of migrants and include this within the operations of the fund;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to support innovative partnerships and to work in close collaboration with humanitarian and development organizations, associations of local governments, professional networks and the private sector to make the partnerships more effective in preventing, preparing for and responding to humanitarian crises in urban environments;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

26/3. Revised strategic plan for 2014–2019 and work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2018–2019

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/226 of 19 December 2014, in which the Assembly reaffirmed 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 2012,² in particular paragraphs 134 to 137 on sustainable cities and human settlements, in which, inter alia, it was 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, as well as the importance of integrated approaches that enhance overall coherence, promote effective rural-urban linkages and improve the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development so that all people have access to basic services, housing and mobility,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets that are integrated and indivisible, including Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and also recalling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, which reaffirms the global commitment to sustainable urban and territorial development as a critical step for realizing sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant actors,

Welcoming also paragraph 172 of the New Urban Agenda, in which Heads of State and Government, ministers and high representatives gathered at Habitat III requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit to the General Assembly during its seventy-first session an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat, with the result of the assessment being a report containing recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat for consideration by Member States,

Welcoming further General Assembly resolution 71/235, on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in which the Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraphs 171 and 172 of the New Urban Agenda, to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the assessment of UN-Habitat was carried out in a fair, objective, impartial and representative manner, and decided that the report of the assessment should be presented in a timely manner,

Taking note of the progress made to date in the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019, as reported through the annual progress report,³ and the findings of United Nations mandated evaluations of activities of UN-Habitat,

Recalling paragraphs 56 (d) and 95 of the strategic plan,⁴ on the revision of the plan on the basis of the New Urban Agenda,

Noting that the midterm evaluation of the implementation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan was officially distributed to member States only on 3 May 2017 and that, therefore, the revised strategic plan for 2014–2019 has not yet been adjusted on the basis of the result of the midterm evaluation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly, while noting that non-core resources represented an important contribution to the overall resource base of the United Nations development system and complemented core resources to support operational activities for development, recognized that non-core resources posed challenges and might distort programme priorities regulated by intergovernmental bodies and processes,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/226, in which the Assembly recognized that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat had changed considerably in their scope and complexity and that the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to developing countries had changed in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in the strategic plan for 2014–2019,

Having considered the revised strategic plan for the period 2014–2019,⁵ the proposed work programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2018–2019⁶ and the recommendations set forth in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁷

1. *Approves* the revised strategic plan for 2014–2019 and the proposed work programme and budget for 2018–2019, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;
2. *Urges* the Executive Director to adjust the strategic plan on the basis of the results of the midterm evaluation and to present it without delay to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for review and approval;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to engage member States in close coordination with the United Nations system, local authorities, major groups and other stakeholders in the further development of the action

³ HSP/GC/26/INF/7.

⁴ HSP/GC.24/5/Add.2.

⁵ HSP/GC/26/6/Add.3.

⁶ HSP/GC/26/6.

⁷ HSP/GC/26/6/Add.1.

framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and with its approval, to ensure the coherence of this process with the strategic plan for 2014–2019 and the elaboration of the strategic plan for 2020–2025;

4. *Approves* the foundation general purpose budget of 26,060,700 United States dollars and endorses the foundation special purpose budget of 139,894,400 dollars for the biennium 2018–2019, and notes estimated technical cooperation funding of 314,418,600 dollars, as detailed in the proposed work programme and budget for 2018–2019 as summarized in the table annexed to the present resolution;

5. *Also approves* the revision of the general reserve to 10 per cent of the foundation general purpose budget as approved in paragraph 4 of the present resolution;

6. *Notes* the need to continue mobilizing resources for UN-Habitat, within the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and urges the Executive Director to adopt effective measures and to enhance efforts to broaden the donor base of the foundation general purpose budget, in consultation with member States and in accordance with the Programme's resource mobilization strategy;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to consult and work closely with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions regarding the evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat as it applies to the work programme and budget and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of that assessment;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consult and work closely with the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the preparation of a results-oriented six-year strategic plan for 2020–2025 and present it to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Director to consult and work closely with the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the preparation of the biennial results-based strategic framework and work programme and budget for the biennium 2020–2021;

10. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to report biannually to member States and, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session, on progress made in resource mobilization, outcome-level performance, financial status and expenditures, the implementation of the strategic plan and the work programme and budget, including evaluation in line with the results-based management framework;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to consult and work closely with the Committee of Permanent Representatives in reviewing the existing financial and programme performance reporting with a view to consolidating and streamlining such reporting in an accountable and transparent manner;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to mainstream cross-cutting issues in the programmes, projects and activities of UN-Habitat, in line with its mandate, and to allocate resources accordingly in consultation with member States;

13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to strengthen the implementation of results-based management in the programmes, projects, policies and activities of UN-Habitat;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director, within existing resources, to include managerial issues and internal controls in the secretariat's current annual reporting cycle to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including complying with ST/SGB/2007/11, the Secretary-General's bulletin on "United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes", among others;

15. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to work with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to develop and enhance qualitative performance indicators of management practices, taking into consideration the independent assessment, mandated by paragraph 172 of the New Urban Agenda, containing recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat, as well as best practices and performance indicators within the larger United Nations system, and to include these performance indicators in the next work programme and budget and the strategic plan;

16. *Also calls upon* the Executive Director to submit a report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives prior to making any operational and/or programme changes requiring additional resources;

17. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate resources between subprogramme budget lines up to a maximum of 5 per cent of the subprogramme appropriations and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereof, and in duly justified exceptional circumstances to reallocate in excess of 5 per cent and up to 10 per cent of the appropriations from which resources are reallocated after prior consultation with and approval by the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

18. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them into line with possible variations in income compared with the approved level of appropriations;

19. *Reiterates* its call to all Member States and stakeholders for financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions, subject to United Nations rules and regulations, and encourages more Member States and stakeholders to accord priority, when possible, to contributions to the foundation general purpose fund in order to provide predictable multi-year funding to support the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019 and the work programme for 2018–2019;

20. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation by UN-Habitat of General Assembly resolution 67/226;

21. *Also requests* the Executive Director to intensify his efforts to realize, demonstrate and effectively communicate the expected results and impact of the programme objectives of UN-Habitat and for the efficient, effective and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;

22. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report annually to member States and, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session, on progress in implementing the recommendations of internal and external evaluations and audits, as contained in the reports of both the internal and independent oversight bodies of the United Nations;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to UN-Habitat are used to fund activities that are in line with the work programme and the strategic plan, including the normative mandate of UN-Habitat;

24. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council for approval at its twenty-seventh session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a streamlined work programme and budget for the biennium 2020–2021 that monitors and manages the share of resources devoted respectively to administrative costs and both normative and operational programme activities, with a detailed breakdown of non-post requirements by item of expenditure, while clearly according and justifying priority to the application of the resources to programme activities that are in line with the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals;

25. *Further requests* the Executive Director to ensure appropriate consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the strategic frameworks and work programmes, including on any proposed changes to those documents, throughout the intersessional period;

26. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex

	<i>Strategic priorities</i>	<i>Urban legislation, land and governance</i>	<i>Urban planning and design</i>	<i>Urban economy and municipal finance</i>	<i>Urban basic services</i>	<i>Housing and slum upgrading</i>	<i>Risk reduction and rehabilitation</i>	<i>Research and capacity development</i>	<i>Executive direction and management and policymaking organs</i>	<i>Programme support</i>	<i>Total</i>
2016–2017 approved appropriation	Source of funds										
	Regular budget	2 138.6	2 258.6	2 972.8	2 096.1	840.6	906.7	3 833.4	5 636.0	1 842.5	22 525.3
	Foundation general purpose	3 113.2	4 236.9	3 348.6	3 889.8	3 637.6	4 426.2	4 453.5	13 775.7	4 736.0	45 617.5
	Foundation special purpose	14 591.7	22 478.6	5 166.6	33 414.4	6 593.3	1 001.4	5 002.7	10 374.3	2 674.5	101 297.5
	Technical cooperation	45 027.4	41 350.9	28 003.5	26 976.5	77 749.0	76 179.0	14 135.2	3 060.0	427.4	312 909.0
	Total	64 870.9	70 325.1	39 491.5	66 376.9	88 820.5	82 513.3	27 424.8	32 846.0	9 680.4	482 349.4
	Expenditure category										
	Post	5 412.6	6 140.5	5 811.3	6 920.0	7 351.8	8 505.3	6 660.2	17 238.4	7 522.7	71 562.8
	Non-post	59 458.3	64 184.6	33 680.2	59 456.9	81 468.7	74 008.0	20 764.6	15 607.6	2 157.7	410 786.6
	Total	64 870.9	70 325.1	39 491.5	66 376.9	88 820.5	82 513.3	27 424.8	32 846.0	9 680.4	482 349.4
2018–2019 estimates	Source of funds										
	Regular budget	1 959.6	2 066.0	2 725.4	1 922.7	764.2	824.1	3 506.8	3 965.8	1 686.9	19 421.5
	Foundation general purpose	1 513.5	3 133.8	1 507.2	2 041.3	1 530.7	1 728.5	1 462.4	8 496.1	4 647.2	26 060.7
	Foundation special purpose	21 158.9	25 978.7	10 325.6	27 851.9	11 125.4	13 229.9	7 745.7	14 432.1	8 046.2	139 894.4
	Technical cooperation	36 872.0	39 877.7	40 673.3	39 835.3	54 101.9	69 199.0	26 836.8	3 163.9	3 858.6	314 418.6
	Total	61 504.0	71 056.3	55 231.4	71 651.2	67 522.2	84 981.6	39 551.7	30 057.8	18 238.9	499 795.2
	Expenditure category										
	Post	3 517.3	5 093.9	4 258.4	4 255.0	4 769.7	5 427.0	3 804.0	11 740.7	12 265.5	55 131.5
Non-post	57 986.7	65 962.4	50 973.0	67 396.2	62 752.5	79 554.5	35 747.7	18 317.1	5 973.5	444 663.7	
Total	61 504.0	71 056.3	55 231.4	71 651.2	67 522.2	84 981.6	39 551.7	30 057.8	18 238.9	499 795.2	

26/4. Promoting safety in cities and human settlements

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 23/14 on sustainable urban development through policies for safer cities and urban crime prevention and recognizing its implementation and the growing involvement of local authorities through the Global Network on Safer Cities,

Recalling also its resolution 24/6 on supporting action for the creation of safer cities, which emphasizes the importance of capacity-building and technical cooperation for the Safer Cities Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and calls on UN-Habitat to accelerate the effective implementation of the Safer Cities Programme to respond to the needs of countries in the face of increasing crime and violence in many cities,

Recalling further its resolution 25/4 on implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019,

Guided by General Assembly resolution 68/188 of 18 December 2013, in which the General Assembly requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide substantive contributions to UN-Habitat with regard to efforts to complement the development of United Nations guidelines on safer cities, taking into consideration the Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention⁸ and the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime,⁹ and to regularly inform Member States of the progress made in that regard with a view to receiving comments,

Guided also by the commitment in the New Urban Agenda, in particular paragraph 103, and all the security challenges included therein, to integrate crime and violence prevention policies in developing urban strategies and interventions,

Expressing appreciation for the partnerships that the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme has fostered within the United Nations system with entities including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in integrating the safer cities approach into their programming, pursuant to their mandates,

Recognizing the continued challenges associated with generating adequate financial resources for the implementation of urban safety programmes and multisectoral and preventive approaches in cities and human settlements,

1. *Stresses* the need for UN-Habitat to promote improved urban planning, legislation and financing strategies in support of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda informed by, among other things, a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of crime, violence and conflict in urban settings through the consolidation of knowledge and lessons learned through 20 years of work under the Safer Cities Programme in over 70 cities worldwide;

2. *Encourages* all Member States of the United Nations to support open data partnerships that support safer cities to strengthen evidence-based policy and practice on safer cities, and to allow Governments to track progress towards achieving the safety-related commitments in the New Urban Agenda, in relation to Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11, 16 and 17, in a more systematic manner;

3. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat within available resources and within its existing mandate to increase the visibility of available tools, methods and expertise through the Safer Cities Programme, which will provide monitoring tools to support Governments in the development of evidence-based policy and practice on safer cities, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue close consultations with the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to seek the views of member States on the current draft of the United Nations system-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and to submit the guidelines for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session.

⁸ Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9, annex.

⁹ Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex.

26/5. Regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development by regional consultative structures

The Governing Council,

Cognizant of the commitment in the New Urban Agenda “to strengthen mobilization efforts through partnerships, advocacy and awareness-raising activities relating to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda using existing initiatives”,¹⁰ as well as Sustainable Development Goal 17¹¹ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹²

Recalling its resolution 24/8, in which the Council encouraged the exploration of the opportunities for strengthening South-South cooperation and the exchange of experiences among the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, and requested the Executive Director to extend his support to United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) regional and thematic offices to support regional forums,

Recalling also its resolution 20/2, in which the Council invited Governments to strengthen or establish regional consultative structures and to use them in raising the profile of issues addressed by the Governing Council,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, which acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and noted that regional frameworks could complement and facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level,

Noting with appreciation the supporting role and continuous participation of UN-Habitat and its regional, thematic and country offices in organizing regional consultative structures including, inter alia, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization and the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, as well as relevant United Nations offices and regional arrangements,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation between member States of regional consultative structures and UN-Habitat for achieving the goals of sustainable housing and urbanization in each region,

Commending the organization of regular regional ministerial conferences and welcoming the forthcoming ministerial conferences in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, in Argentina in June 2017; in the Arab region, in Morocco in December 2017; in the Asia-Pacific region, in the Islamic Republic of Iran in September/October 2018; and in the African region, in Ethiopia in December 2018,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to extend support, within available resources and within its existing mandate, to UN-Habitat regional, thematic and country offices to support such regional consultative structures and to work closely with them to achieve the aims of the New Urban Agenda;

2. *Encourages* those regional consultative structures to explore opportunities for strengthening South-South cooperation and to exchange experiences concerning, inter alia, the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda among themselves and with relevant United Nations offices and regional arrangements;

3. *Encourages* the member States of those regional consultative structures to share, on favourable and accepted terms, their knowledge and proactive contributions through virtual platforms and other means;

¹⁰ New Urban Agenda: Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All, para. 169.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹² Available at http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf.

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

26/6. World Urban Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution 18/5, by which it requested the Executive Director to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum with a view to strengthening the coordination of international support for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, and in particular paragraph 3 of section B, in which the General Assembly affirmed that the World Urban Forum would be a non-legislative technical forum in which experts could exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) did not meet, and paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001, in which the General Assembly encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to participate, as appropriate, in the Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, in addition to subsequent invitations by the General Assembly for all Governments to participate actively in the sessions of the Forum,¹³

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976 on the pattern of conferences, in which the General Assembly decided that United Nations bodies might hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for such a session to be held within its territory had agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved,

Recalling the invitation by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/226 of 23 December 2003 to donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, and its resolution 62/198 of 19 December 2007, by which it invited donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including women and young people, in the Forum,

Recalling also its resolutions 20/10 of 8 April 2005, 22/10 of 3 April 2009 and 23/5 of 15 April 2011,

Reiterating the objectives of the Forum as set out in annex IV to the report of the first session of the Forum, held in Nairobi from 29 April to 3 May 2002,¹⁴

Expressing appreciation for the reports of the Executive Director on the sixth and seventh sessions of the Forum,¹⁵

Welcoming the contributions by the Government of Italy, the Campania Region, the Province of Naples and the Municipality of Naples to hosting the sixth session of the Forum in Naples, Italy, from 1 to 7 September 2012; and the Government of Colombia and Municipality of Medellin to hosting the seventh session of the Forum in Medellin, Colombia, from 5 to 11 April 2014, with over 22,000 attendees from 142 countries,

Noting with concern that preparations for the next session of the Forum are being coordinated in New York, thereby undermining the effective involvement and participation of the Committee of Permanent Representatives,

Welcoming the participation in the Forum of various stakeholders and constituency groups, including, but not limited to, national Governments, local authorities, members of national, regional and international associations of local governments, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, media organizations, human settlements professionals, research institutions and academies of science, professional associations, the private sector, business and non-profit sectors, foundations, relevant United Nations organizations and other international agencies and those that participated in the Habitat III process (including the general public),

¹³ General Assembly resolutions 60/203 of 22 December 2005 and 62/198 of 19 December 2007.

¹⁴ Available at http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/WUF1_report.pdf.

¹⁵ HSP/GC/24/2/Add.2 and HSP/GC/25/2/Add.2.

Expressing appreciation for the successful organization of the sixth and seventh sessions of, and the growing interest of the global community in, the Forum, as demonstrated by seven successive successful sessions, affirming the Forum as the foremost global arena for interaction between policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements,

Recognizing that the Forum is held in a different host city and country biennially and that, since the seventh session host cities are selected through an open bidding process with UN-Habitat serving as the convener and secretariat of the Forum, based at UN-Habitat headquarters, and that the innovative and inclusive nature of the Forum, combined with high-level participation therein, make it a unique United Nations event and the world's premier international gathering on urban issues,

1. *Welcomes* the offer by and the selection of the Government of Malaysia and the city of Kuala Lumpur to host the ninth session of the Forum from 7 to 13 February 2018 and the selection of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to host the tenth session of the Forum in Abu Dhabi in 2020;

2. *Reiterates* its support for the Forum process and its commitment to continued cooperation with the next hosts of the Forum, while recognizing that the Forum is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to continue to implement the main findings resulting from the lessons learned from the review of the first four sessions of the Forum¹⁶ and the evaluation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the sixth and seventh sessions, in which there is concurrence without prejudice to any other emerging findings;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to improve and define a timely planning process, for UN-Habitat itself and for all external stakeholders involved, based on a results-based framework, identifying clearly focused objectives and measurable indicators of success, designing conducive event formats and strengthening reporting mechanisms to enable the effective collection of the substantive outcomes of sessions of the Forum;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to assess the impact and outcome of each session of the Forum using a results-based approach, including various evaluation tools and mechanisms;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, through the Forum and in conjunction with UN-Habitat advocacy and partner platforms, the engagement of all relevant stakeholders towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in collaboration with the host city of each session of the Forum;

7. *Emphasizes* the need for the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be actively consulted in the planning and organization of sessions of the Forum to ensure transparent, inclusive, effective and timely planning;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the secretariat of the Forum continues to be based at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi and that preparations for all sessions of the Forum are effectively coordinated by the World Urban Forum Unit at UN-Habitat headquarters and that the Committee of Permanent Representatives is adequately consulted and fully involved in the preparatory process for all sessions of the Forum;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to coordinate as appropriate, including in accordance with the UN-Habitat subprogrammes and with the regional offices and subdivisions and through the interdivisional support mechanism of the Forum, in order to deliver inputs to ensure the success of the sessions of the Forum and to make maximum use of in-house capacity and limit the use of consultants;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue the selection process for the host city of the eleventh session of the Forum, to be held in 2022, with a call to Governments for expressions of interest in hosting the event in their cities, and requests that the announcement of the selected host country and city for the eleventh session be published during the ninth session of the Forum, in February 2018;

¹⁶ HSP/GC/23/INF/3.

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

26/7. Accreditation

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 19/1 of 9 May 2003 entitled “Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme”, and in particular rules 64, 65 and 66 regarding the role of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations of the Governing Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Recalling also its resolution 19/8 of 9 May 2003, in which it decided to reconfirm, on request, the accreditation to the Governing Council of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners that were accredited to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda held in New York from 6 to 8 June 2001,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/210 of 22 December 2015, in which the Assembly approved the provisional rules of procedure for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, and the arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and in Habitat III as set out in annexes I and II to the resolution,

Recognizing the need to reform the accreditation system, in consultation with member States, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions, to ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, the monitoring of accreditation, and the enhancement of transparency and accountability,

1. *Decides* to reconfirm, upon request, the accreditation to the Governing Council of the stakeholders that were accredited to Habitat III;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to disseminate widely all relevant information on the procedures for the accreditation of stakeholder organizations to sessions of the Governing Council;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with member States, to develop a draft stakeholder engagement policy, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society, and to submit the draft policy by the end of 2017 for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives with a view to submitting it for consideration and possible approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session.

26/8. Promoting the effective implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), entitled “New Urban Agenda,” adopted by Heads of State and Government, ministers and high representatives at Habitat III, held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, the adoption of which the United Nations General Assembly welcomed in its resolution 71/235 of 21 December 2016 and endorsed in its resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016,

Recognizing the New Urban Agenda as reaffirming a global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step in realizing sustainable development, in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant actors,

Recognizing also the linkages between sustainable urbanization and, inter alia, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change,

Reaffirming the commitments on means of implementation included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recognizing the role of national, subnational and local governments and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda throughout the process including policymaking, planning, design, implementation, operation and maintenance, and monitoring, as well as the financing and timely delivery of services,

Aware that the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires enabling policy frameworks at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels and effective means of implementation including finance, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and mutually beneficial partnerships,

Recalling the role and expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), within its mandate, as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including providing support in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities,

Acknowledging that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner,

Taking note of the need of the work of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through the development and implementation of its strategic plan,

Taking note also of the strategic plan for 2014–2019, lessons so far learned from its implementation and its amendments,

Taking note further of the request made to the Secretary-General, in the light of the New Urban Agenda and with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of UN-Habitat, to submit to the General Assembly during its seventy-first session an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat, the result of which is to be a report containing recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat,

Emphasizing the need for all Member States and all stakeholders to fully operationalize the Quito implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda in an integrated, holistic and timely manner, taking into account different national realities, capacities and development levels and the importance of coordination synergies in achieving the objectives of the Agenda and urbanization components of other relevant global instruments,

Emphasizing also that well-designed, planned and managed cities and other human settlements are important for improving the living conditions of all inhabitants especially the poor and those in vulnerable situations including older persons and persons with disabilities,

Reaffirming Governing Council resolution 23/1 of 15 April 2011 and resolution 24/4 of 19 April 2013, that support the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat, as well as the need for the gender responsive approaches recognized in the New Urban Agenda,

1. *Encourages* all Member States of the United Nations as well as other voluntary donors to provide adequate and predictable resources;
2. *Urges* the Executive Director to ensure the efficient and accountable management of resources in fulfilment of the role of UN-Habitat as a focal point in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the delivery of the appropriate technical support to Member States for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
3. *Also urges* the Executive Director to intensify efforts to broaden the donor base of UN-Habitat for voluntary contributions, including from non-traditional donor countries, the private sector, foundations and individuals, in accordance to the United Nations financial regulations and rules;
4. *Encourages* the Executive Director, in accordance with the role of UN-Habitat as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including supporting the implementation and review of the New Urban Agenda, to collaborate with other United Nations programmes and entities, Member States, local authorities and relevant stakeholders, as well as through the mobilization of experts, to contribute to a United Nations system-wide strategy and continue generating evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the related dimensions of the sustainable development goals, as well as to further develop the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in close consultation with Member States, local authorities and stakeholders;

5. *Requires* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to report, on a six-monthly basis, to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the Programme's collaboration with other United Nations entities and stakeholders as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the implementation and review of the New Urban Agenda;
6. *Encourages* the Executive Director to support Member States, at their request and within the existing mandated activities of UN-Habitat, to develop integrated strategies and implementation mechanisms for sustainable urban development at the national, regional and local levels by, among others, promoting good spatial planning, effective regulation and feasible financial tools;
7. *Encourages* member States, at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, to share best practices regarding the early implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
8. *Requests* the timely submission by the Secretary-General of the independent assessment report containing recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat for consideration by the Governing Council and by the General Assembly;
9. *Requests* the Executive Director, pursuant to the relevant paragraphs of the New Urban Agenda, to coordinate a follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda in collaboration with other United Nations system entities and to prepare and submit four-yearly reports thereon in a timely fashion for consideration and appropriate action;
10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, in close collaboration with other United Nations system entities, in consultation with member States, and taking into account the recommendations of the report of the independent assessment and the views of relevant stakeholders, a proposal for a unified global monitoring framework that will facilitate the tracking of progress towards achieving the goals of the New Urban Agenda, as well as the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the sustainable development goals, in a systematic manner;
11. *Further requests* the Executive Director to coordinate the preparation of the four-yearly report pursuant to paragraph 168 of the New Urban Agenda;
12. *Requests* the Executive Director to work in close consultation with Member States in all its work under the New Urban Agenda in their countries in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;
13. *Also requests* the Executive Director to allocate funds, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to support prior and continuing commitments to the effective and efficient implementation of gender mainstreaming to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls using existing structures, such as the Advisory Group on Gender Issues, women's networks and other related organizations, and calls upon Member States to include the participation of girls and women of all ages in local, national and international structures in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
14. *Calls upon* Member States to take into account youth expertise in the local, national, regional and international implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, to involve youth in decision-making at the international, national and subnational levels, to recognize the Youth Advisory Board, established in accordance with Governing Council resolution 19/13 of 9 May 2003 and resolution 23/7 of 15 April 2013, and to reaffirm its role in advising UN-Habitat on issues concerning youth in the context of the New Urban Agenda;
15. *Encourages* Governments to implement policies and plans focused on youth in areas such as community service, voluntarism, skills development, creation of decent jobs and employment, livelihoods, development and creation of entrepreneurship, particularly for the poor and those in vulnerable situations and those in conflict and post-conflict situations;
16. *Requests* the Executive Director to call on cities in the light of the New Urban Agenda's commitment to ending the AIDS epidemic, to accelerate an HIV multisectoral response as part of their urban development plans, leaving no one behind, in order for cities to contribute to national and global success in ending the AIDS epidemic as a public threat by 2030, as part of the sustainable development agenda;

A. Promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing

17. *Encourages* Member States to undertake, where appropriate, further housing sector reforms and the formulation of sustainable and integrated policies for safe and affordable housing, legislation and strategies that promote the progressive realization of the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing, and which aim to improve access to adequate, safe, sustainable and affordable housing and thereby improve the lives of millions of urban dwellers, including through slum upgrading as described in the New Urban Agenda;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to engage all relevant actors regarding opportunities to address the current challenges related to sustainable urbanization, with a particular emphasis on sustainable, adequate, safe and affordable housing as well as high quality and sustainable buildings and construction;

B. Integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization

19. *Encourages* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to help Member States, at their request and within mandated activities, to develop and review their national urban policies, including the content and process of urban and territorial planning, considering the principles of the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*, as well as developing new innovative tools in collaboration with local authorities and other relevant actors;

20. *Also encourages* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to develop further the Urban Planning and Design Lab as an integrative facility, as one of the tools to provide support to Member States in the implementation of the relevant elements of the New Urban Agenda;

C. Synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization

21. *Requests* the Executive Director, within available resources and within the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to collaborate with Member States and all relevant stakeholders in promoting an integrated approach to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by all levels of government through building synergies across sectors taking into account the specific expertise and resources of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, civil society, the private sector and academia, working together towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and within the context of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

22. *Welcomes* the initiatives of UN-Habitat to collaborate with relevant United Nations entities¹⁷ and the World Bank Group on a Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development;

23. *Encourages* the Executive Director, for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to provide support to Member States, subnational and local authorities, as appropriate, to further pursue access to funds including the Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds to support action-oriented policies and programmes at all levels;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session.

¹⁷ Including, at present, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the United Nations Global Compact.

26/9. Human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 19/18 of 9 May 2003, in which it endorsed the establishment of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, and its resolution 22/11 of 3 April 2009, in which it called upon member States to provide financial support to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund,

Recalling also its resolution 23/2 of 15 April 2011, in which it called upon the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to further focus its operations on housing, land, and planning issues, recognizing the quality of the technical assessments organized by UN-Habitat and acknowledging the progress made on these issues with the technical assistance of UN-Habitat,

Acknowledging the challenges to ensure the financial sustainability of the Special Human Settlement Programme of the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund,

1. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to continue to focus its work where there are acute humanitarian and development needs as identified through technical assessments by UN-Habitat. Particular emphasis should continue to be devoted to the important needs of the Palestinian communities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, since 1967, through strengthened UN-Habitat projects, as detailed in various UN-Habitat reports, in full coordination with all concerned parties;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to reconvene the Advisory Board to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund with particular emphasis on reviewing progress and supporting fundraising to meet identified gaps in view also of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
3. *Calls upon* Member States and other stakeholders in a position to do so to financially support the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund;
4. *Calls upon* all concerned parties to take practical measures that can foster sustainable urbanization in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and in so doing improve the conditions for peace;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session on progress with regard to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, including progress in the mobilization of financial resources for the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.

Annex II

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-sixth session

Thank you to all participants at this UN-Habitat Governing Council for your commitment to a more sustainable future.

We live in a century of unprecedented urban growth. For the first time in history, cities are home to more than half of humanity. By 2050, two out of every three people on earth will live in urban areas.

I welcome your focus on implementing the New Urban Agenda, which can foster greener, cleaner, safer and more inclusive cities.

With the right approach, urbanization can address inequality, economic stagnation, climate change and disasters.

That will advance progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

To realize a life of dignity for all, we need cities that are free of crime, pollution and poverty – cities where diversity is celebrated and the social fabric is strong.

We will work together with the Governing Council to strengthen UN-Habitat's capabilities to support countries in realizing this vision.

Thank you.

Annex III

Summary by the President of the high-level debate

1. Many representatives expressed their commitment to the goals of UN-Habitat, and thanked the organization for assisting them to achieve national objectives with regard to cities and human settlements. There was widespread appreciation of the commitment and contribution to the global urban agenda by Mr. Clos and Ms. Kacyira, the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director respectively, and many offered them best wishes on their imminent departure from UN-Habitat.
2. Several representatives said that the theme of the meeting – “Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda” – was timely and appropriate to maintain the commitment demonstrated at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito in October 2016 and expressed support also for the three sub-themes on promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing; integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization; and synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization.
3. Many representatives outlined their goals and aspirations for human settlements, at all levels from local to global and recognized the role of sustainable urbanization in the process of socioeconomic transformation. There was agreement that cities should be well managed, through the adoption of a holistic approach that ensured harmonization of the various strands of urban development. Cities should be inclusive, accommodating all inhabitants, including the marginalized and vulnerable, and providing opportunities for everyone to fulfil their potential; they should be safe and secure; they should be energy efficient and climate friendly; they should offer good accessibility and connectivity, through the application of articulated and well planned public transport systems; they should be environmentally sustainable, and should provide adequate open spaces for recreation; and they should ensure the adequate provision of public services. In addition, in developing cities, attention should be given to the special needs of the elderly and of persons with disabilities.
4. Several representatives said that housing was worthy of special attention, given its dominant presence in the urbanized space, and the basic human need for and right to affordable, good-quality housing, with security of tenure. Several highlighted the role of cities as drivers of national economic and social development, and the need to ensure policies and strategies that enabled them to fulfil that role, including through the delivery of education and training that provided citizens with the skills to contribute to the wealth and well-being of the city. All of those aims required effective governance that promoted collaborative and inclusive approaches, that was sensitive to the needs for equity, human rights and gender equality, and that supported innovative solutions to pressing urban challenges. One representative called for human rights to be fully integrated into urban laws, budgets, policies and programmes, pointing out that housing, education, health, water, sanitation or access to justice were human rights which could not be treated as commodities. Another highlighted the need for efficient institutional mechanisms and structures to ensure that cities and human settlements functioned properly, in line with the policies and strategies that had been put in place.
5. There was consensus that the achievement of those goals and aspirations faced a wide array of challenges. A large and growing number of urban dwellers still lived in slums and informal settlements. Urban development agendas were being compromised by lack of funding and resources. Certain problems had taken on increasing prominence in recent years, including the flows of migrants, refugees and displaced persons, the threat of terrorist activity, and the destruction of urban settlements due to armed conflict, all of which were threatening urban stability, governance and the provision of services. All the challenges facing urban settlements were exacerbated by the rapid rate of urbanization that was particularly being experienced by the developing countries, with rural–urban migration swelling the ranks of city dwellers. In those circumstances, the provision of decent, affordable housing presented a formidable challenge. Other problems highlighted by representatives included congestion, pollution, environmental degradation, poverty and the overloading of urban services and amenities. In addition, there was often a lack of capacity and resources at all levels of government to deal with the challenges facing cities and other settlements.
6. A number of representatives placed progress on human settlements in the context of recent international agreements and accords that embraced the urban agenda within the wider framework of sustainable development, and recognized the interconnectedness of all aspects of social, economic and environmental advancement. Such agreements included the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets; the Paris Agreement on climate change; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Of particular

pertinence was Sustainable Development Goal 11, on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, which was closely linked to the New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III, and for which UN-Habitat would need to provide effective support to Member States for its implementation, monitoring and reporting. One representative said that the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 would entail quality organization and coordination, and the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders at local, national, regional and international levels.

7. Several representatives highlighted action being taken at the regional level to support the national implementation of action in the human settlements arena. The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD), for example, was addressing rapid urbanization in the region and strengthening South-South cooperation; the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development was a consultative mechanism to promote housing policies and strategies for sustainable urban development in Arab countries under the auspices of the League of Arab States; the Union for the Mediterranean had supported five flagship projects on sustainable urban development in selected countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea; and the Economic Commission for Europe had agreed on the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing in October 2015 to improve the sustainability of housing through effective policies and action at all levels, supported by international cooperation.

8. There was general agreement on the importance of Habitat III and its outcomes, particularly the New Urban Agenda, which was viewed as a major milestone in the history of efforts to improve the urban environment, and a significant framework for action on human settlements in the coming decades and for promoting an integrated and cross-sectoral approach. Several representatives said that their countries shared the vision of the New Urban Agenda. One representative said that the initiative would help Member States to achieve increased access to decent shelter, reduce inequalities, promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, achieve gender equality, improve human health and well-being, foster resilience, and protect the environment. Another representative said that the New Urban Agenda marked the first step towards improving methods of planning and governing urban areas in a manner directed towards social inclusion and urban poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and resilient urban development. Many representatives highlighted the strong linkages between the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, which would complement the cross-cutting and holistic character of the Sustainable Development Goals. One representative said that the New Urban Agenda had been translated into the local language of his country in order to increase its accessibility.

9. There was agreement that the goals of the New Urban Agenda could only be achieved through effective action by UN-Habitat in collaboration with all stakeholders, including both State and non-State actors, supported by political will from policymakers and decision makers. One representative drew attention to the need for coordination between countries and sectors as well as strengthened synergies within the United Nation system in the implementation of the Agenda. Several representatives stressed the need for sufficient resources to fully implement the Agenda. The need to “localize” the Agenda, so that its application was tailored to national and local circumstances, was stressed by a number of representatives. There was support for the basic principle of the Agenda that no one was to be left behind in the efforts to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and improving the inclusion of all stakeholders, including youth, women and vulnerable groups, in the implementation of the Agenda. One representative praised the recognition of World Cities Day as one of the initiatives to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. A number of representatives said that the upcoming ninth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Kuala Lumpur in February 2018, which would bring together global experts in all aspects of urban settlement, offered a major opportunity to assess early progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda and to shape future efforts to resolve the urban settlement challenges facing the planet.

10. Many representatives highlighted efforts being made in their countries to resolve urban issues and to bring about improvements in all aspects of life in cities and towns. Some referred to the role of national urban policies in sustaining such efforts. Several said that decentralization and devolution of responsibilities to local authorities had helped localize the urban agenda and develop tailored solutions to local challenges. An integrated approach involving all stakeholders, including communities, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, had proved effective in mobilizing resources and expertise. Several representatives spoke of supportive legislation, regulatory measures, policies and strategies that had assisted in formulating and implementing measures in the areas of planned urban growth, housing development, upgrading informal settlements, preventing slums and urban sprawl, social housing schemes, investment in infrastructure, mobilization of resources and environmental protection. The generation of revenue to finance the provision of essential services was viewed as a particular challenge, with some referring to public-private partnership as a positive approach. The role of partners and donors in supporting the elaboration of national policies and

programmes for sustainable urban development was acknowledged. A number of representatives called for the strengthening of existing alliances and the forging of new partnerships, involving new stakeholder constituencies, to ensure a brighter and more sustainable urban future. One representative said that, in his country, the application of a spatial development framework had proved a useful tool in making spatially sound investment decisions, and a housing development fund was being operationalized to help mobilize low-interest funding to ensure affordable housing for targeted income groups. One representative explained how a road funds authority had been created in collaboration with the private sector, civil society and development partners. Another representative said that his country had launched a citizens' charter to help basic services to reach all inhabitants. One representative stressed the importance of support for countries to assist rebuilding in post-conflict circumstances. Another representative said that it was important to maintain the cultural identity of settlements through sympathetic modernization. Lastly, one representative said that his country had produced a document on architectural policies as guidance on various models of housing development.

11. The need for adequate financial and other support to achieve national targets for sustainable urban development, particularly for developing countries, was highlighted by a number of representatives. One representative urged UN-Habitat to also improve the housing conditions of the rural population, referring to the "providing urban amenities to rural areas" principle initiated in India. One representative highlighted that most internally displaced persons came from rural areas. Several stressed that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility should form the basis of international assistance. Sharing best practices and knowledge, technology transfer, South-South cooperation, investment in scientific research, and capacity-building were all suggested as means of assisting countries in achieving their national targets. One representative said that the lack of adequate and predictable resources to support the work of UN-Habitat was of great concern, particularly the dwindling amounts of non-earmarked funding, which was compromising the ability of the organization to deliver on its mandate. One representative, observing that urban investment, in particular in least developed countries, was dominated by real-estate and infrastructure mega-projects, which only exacerbated disparities between population groups and encouraged discrimination, called for increased investment in public infrastructure and utilities. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized the importance of providing adequate financial and human resources to UN-Habitat, while urging the organization to address its weaknesses with a clear-headed approach.

12. Some representatives announced their sponsorship of, or support for, resolutions before the Governing Council at the current session. One representative urged that participants limit any resolutions they put forward to the mandate of UN-Habitat and the goals of the New Urban Agenda, and avoid politicization.

13. On the way forward for UN-Habitat, several representatives welcomed the evidence-based and independent assessment of the organization, as requested in the New Urban Agenda. The independence of the assessment was underlined as being crucial to the exercise by one representative. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that inputs from the Nairobi-based Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat should be factored in, given that Nairobi was the headquarters of UN-Habitat. In addition, when considering the organization's biennial work programme, the Governing Council should ensure that the interests and priorities of developing and least developed countries were fully taken into account. Another representative said that the request, in the New Urban Agenda, that the outcome of the assessment include recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat was timely, and of great importance to improve the governance structure and financial capability of the Programme. Representatives underlined the opportunities offered by sustainable urbanization, for example, in creating a market space, improving connectivity, addressing risk behaviour and social problems in informal settlements and promoting inclusive industrialization.

14. Several representatives emphasized the partnership enjoyed by their countries with UN-Habitat. On the future role of UN-Habitat, some representatives expressed concern about the commitment of stakeholders to the objectives of the organization, and urged UN-Habitat to make concerted efforts to play a full role in pushing forward the sustainable urban development agenda. One representative, stressing the need for strong commitment and renewed vision, urged that parties make greater efforts to support UN-Habitat at the ministerial level, while another called on member States to strengthen the normative and operational roles of UN-Habitat with a view to realizing the shared vision of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. One representative noted that the 2016 evaluation undertaken by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network had been largely positive, concluding that UN-Habitat provided strong leadership on sustainable urbanization, while observing that performance could be strengthened and improved in some areas. In that regard, it was important that budget projections were realistic, in order to restore donor confidence. Another

representative called for UN-Habitat to demonstrate strong leadership, strategic vision and constructive engagement with member States. Yet another representative said that UN-Habitat should modernize how it thought and worked and should respond to requests to increase its transparency and accountability.

Annex IV

Summaries by the President of the Governing Council of the dialogue on the special theme of the twenty-sixth session, “Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda”

1. At its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on Wednesday, 10 May 2017, the Governing Council held a dialogue on the special theme for the session, “Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda”. The dialogue comprised an opening session followed by three sessions on the sub-themes of the dialogue, as follows: (a) sub-theme 1: promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing; (b) sub-theme 2: integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization; and (c) sub-theme 3: synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization. The discussion sessions featured a moderator and a panel of speakers, presentations by the panellists, comments from the floor and reactions from the panellists.

2. Introducing the dialogue, the President of the Governing Council said that the high-level segment and the present dialogue were linked by a common theme in order to facilitate discussion of the outcomes by key stakeholders.

3. In his opening remarks, the President of the Governing Council highlighted the importance of the New Urban Agenda, which formed a blueprint for the sustainable development of human settlements, and for the future governance and management of cities. The New Urban Agenda represented a paradigm shift, in that it included all three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental – and gave due prominence to the economic dimension of cities. Such a shift could be characterized by the phrase “reform, perform, transform”. In that scenario, administrative, financial and service delivery reforms were necessary for effective performance by urban governance actors, leading to a transformation of the urban agenda. Elements that were needed in order to support and facilitate that process included the decentralization of administrative functions; the devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to local bodies; incentives to motivate reform, and to ensure transparency and accountability; the full participation of citizens and communities in planning and implementation; and revenue generation at all levels, thus raising the standard of service delivery and encouraging tax compliance. In order to access available funds and reassure donors, cities should work to obtain a credit rating, as demonstrated by current practice in India. Financing by international funding agencies should ensure the adequate provision of water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, public transport, energy efficiency and renewable energies. In conclusion, he emphasized the importance of strengthening the local bodies and of sharing and learning from best practices.

A. Opening session

1. Keynote speech

4. In his keynote speech, the Executive Director stressed the principal message of the New Urban Agenda – that urbanization generated wealth. There were two main sources of that wealth – value of location, and value of agglomeration. The first referred to the value attached to a particular location in the city, which provided a message to private sector developers in choosing a site for development. It was incumbent upon urban planners to ensure that urban design took the value of location into account. Urbanization thus became a process by which public authorities generated public and private value – it was of fundamental importance to create wealth through urbanization, in order to ensure that investment in urbanization was not wasted. Spontaneous urbanization was therefore a lost opportunity as it was not optimizing the value through the design process.

5. With regard to the value of agglomeration, it was important to ensure the proximity of the factors of production for economic and other activity to operate efficiently, resulting in a productive engine that added value to the economy, provided that congestion did not collapse the system. Given the time needed for agglomeration to realize its value, the public sector was the main design instrument for ensuring that urban design maximized the benefits of agglomeration. In the meantime, urban sprawl, with segregation of function according to housing, industry, business and other purposes, was placing demands on mobility and compromising efficiency. In that regard, the specialization of the central business district in business and few other uses was a stark example of inefficient urban planning. Relating those concepts to the sub-themes of the present dialogue, it was important to consider the value added by placing housing at the centre of a settlement, and ensuring

that housing policy supported such development through the provision of affordable housing; to understand the mechanisms by which urbanization generated value, and thereby ensure that investment was supportive of integrated planning; and to mobilize the global funding available for urban settlements by apprising donors of the value that could be derived from investment and the creditworthiness of the investment. In conclusion, he said that urbanization should not be viewed as undesirable, but as an opportunity to generate wealth and contribute to the economic development of a country.

2. Panellist presentations

6. The panellists were the Deputy Secretary of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Ms. Emilia Saiz, speaking on behalf of the President of UCLG, Mr. Parks Tau; Senior Director of World Vision International's Global Urban Programmes, Ms. Joyati Das; Manager of the Arcadis NV Shelter Programme, Mr. Bert Smolders; and the Adviser to the Minister of the Environment of Finland, Mr. Jyri Juslén.

7. Ms. Saiz, in her presentation, said that implementing the New Urban Agenda would provide the inspiration and solutions that would be instrumental in implementing other global agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Building on the interlinkages developed between the various stakeholder groups and constituencies throughout the Habitat III process, the New Urban Agenda offered unique opportunities to forge new partnerships between different levels and spheres of government while ensuring the involvement of local communities and academia, among others, in policy formulation, which was key to the more efficient distribution of responsibilities needed to steer clear of the obstacles of the previous 20 years. From the point of view of regional and local governments, the main underlying issues to be addressed were those of subsidiarity and governance, as well as the need to develop new models of municipal financing for achieving sustainable urbanization, which called for collaboration with the international community and with national Governments. She appealed to the latter to consider the matter of subsidiarity and to ensure adequate resources and competencies for local and regional governments to liaise.

8. Ms. Das, in her presentation, said that civil society had a key role to play in the sustainable cities debate by ensuring that people's views and perspectives were heard and taken into account, especially those of vulnerable groups such as children. Among the core principles of the New Urban Agenda was to enhance liveability and a critical indicator of that, she said, was child well-being. It was important, therefore, to bring children and urban youth into the debate so as to draw on their intimate knowledge of their neighbourhoods, as in the case of a project in India where young girls in slum communities were mapping those communities and providing the information to the local authorities. What was missing at present, however, was the platform to engage with them and that gap could be addressed through education and informal dialogue, in particular with street children. In return, children and urban youth could, through their interactions with local government, learn the principles of sound policymaking in the interest of improved housing development and quality of life. Complementarity and new partnerships with all stakeholder groups, including business and industry, were key to making sure that marginalized groups had their voices heard and no one was left behind.

9. In his presentation, Mr. Smolders said that business and industry recognized that implementing the New Urban Agenda was important as they needed a well-organized urban environment to prosper, to contribute to the platforms generating new developments and to work in partnership with others. Business and industry, he added, had a vital place in cities and in the everyday lives of the people that worked there and it was in their interest for their workers to have access to affordable housing. In addition, he said that sound urban planning was key to preventing slum development as cities doubled in size over the coming decades; that good legislation was needed to ensure that companies played their role; and that there were all manner of creative financial arrangements available for Governments and businesses to meet their respective needs. The key elements for the implementation of the Agenda, in his view, were partnership, sound legislation and a strong UN-Habitat, and he called on the private sector to live up to its responsibility in those regards.

10. Mr. Juslén, in his presentation, described how his Government, after the return of the delegation of Finland from Habitat III in Quito, had developed an integrated approach to implementing the New Urban Agenda that focused on green, smart and inclusive urban development through the promotion of, among other things, decarbonization, resource efficiency, a circular economy and innovative and sustainable public procurement; smart urban transport and energy; and the provision of public services and housing for all in the face of a major influx of immigrants. The national implementation programme was being launched by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and a wide range of partnerships was being considered between

municipal and state authorities, academia, the private sector and civil society. Lastly, he mentioned UN-Habitat work with the computer game “Minecraft” as a tool to bring youth on board in planning.

3. Discussion

11. Opening the discussion, Ms. Das said that the technological awareness of the young equipped them as innovators who could swiftly mobilize to spearhead the needed shift in focus from smart cities to smart communities. As such, they were the enablers of sustainable urbanization, good planning, sound governance and participation. Indeed, their comparative advantage in technology could be harnessed in order to scale up efficiency and swiftly share knowledge across communities, cities and nations. In that context, she described a pilot project in Beirut in which youth were employing mobile technology to map the facilities in their neighbourhoods for use in improving urban design and planning processes.

12. Mr. Smolders, speaking of partnerships with particular reference to the private sector, said that the challenge was to ensure that the collaboration was mutually reinforcing for all actors. As evidenced by many partnerships, businesses were more interested in choosing the right partners for achieving their long-term objectives than in making short-term profits. There was much to be learned from the New Urban Agenda and from partners with UN-Habitat, but such knowledge must be disseminated into the real world to ensure inclusivity and reap its gains. He agreed with the suggestion that the private sector should seek to tap the undoubted potential present in informal settlements. In so doing, however, it would require support from Governments and other stakeholders.

13. Ms. Saiz, emphasizing the slogan “local for action”, said that the leading role to be played by local and regional governments in bridging divides and also in providing feedback on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda called for a certain kind of dialogue that had not yet been fully developed. She remarked on the crucial relationship between local and regional governments and UN-Habitat, which was the only United Nations entity that recognized them as partners in policy development.

14. Mr. Juslén spoke of agreements of intent as a model for inspiring the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the local level, saying that such agreements were successfully used in his country to guarantee State funding for large transport projects in metropolitan areas that produced a certain quantity of housing and worked for a denser urban structure. Ways of using those agreements to promote the circular economy and sustainable public procurement were now being explored.

15. One representative said that for African cities it was more important that resources be used to address issues such as access to drinking water, sanitation and decent housing rather than the mobility, energy efficiency and recreational facilities that some participants appeared to prioritize with respect to the New Urban Agenda; that there was the requisite expertise in Africa for implementing the New Urban Agenda but that the authorities needed assistance in adapting cities to present-day needs; and that the question of land ownership in precarious housing neighbourhoods remained an issue, as access to housing relied on access to land ownership. Lastly he raised the question of whether, in the case of informal settlements, the State should provide the infrastructure upon which local communities could build housing or wait until the housing density had reached such a level that it was necessary to provide the infrastructure.

16. Mr. Juslén, responding to the latter question, said that in Finland the State gave the municipalities the autonomy to launch land-use planning and housing production projects, mainly confining itself to financing metropolitan area-wide transport networks, but the projects were subject to state laws and regulations. Good regulations for land-use planning were needed to guide the planning process.

17. Mr. Smolders said that, in his view, the problem of informal settlements was best addressed before it began, through sound urban planning.

18. Ms. Saiz, on the question of the differing priorities in African cities, said that it was important for each municipality to address those that were specific to its local realities. As to the matter of informal settlement construction in Africa she said that the New Urban Agenda was inspiring local government to tackle the issue in innovative ways, adding that many African leaders were starting to enter into partnerships with large non-governmental organizations and local communities to that end. Addressing urban informality, she said, was key and the solution, in her view, was co-creation of cities.

19. One representative, supported by another, called on local, national and regional government to support the work of community-based organizations and stressed that the New Urban Agenda could not work unless local people, especially women, had a central role in decision-making. Welcoming the

emphasis in the current discussion on the inclusion of civil society, she said that grassroots communities wished no longer to be seen as beneficiaries and users but as local partners, adding that her organization was currently seeking to engage with the authorities in Lagos, Nigeria, to seek alternative, amicable solutions to the problem of evictions of slum dwellers from their homes.

20. Ms. Das, further to the point about evictions, said that children were badly affected as they found themselves recast overnight as street children and their vulnerability gave rise to protection issues. Marginalized people, to have their voices heard, had to have someone in government who would champion their cause.

21. One representative said that her Government was already working to implement the New Urban Agenda within the framework of its national urban development policies, with a particular emphasis on addressing social inequalities.

22. Another representative, recalling the emphasis in the Habitat III process on financing for smart cities, asked how the dialogue between member States, civil society and the various stakeholder groups, including business and industry, could ensure that economic and technological innovation, which was as important for cities as norms and standards, was taken into account in the high-quality dialogue fostered by UN-Habitat.

23. Mr. Juslén said that the concept of smart cities was still relatively new and that private sector companies should be involved to a far greater degree in defining it; it was in their interest and that of the authorities alike to explore the various ways in which it could be promoted, and academia, too, had a role to play in that regard.

24. Mr. Smolders said that information-sharing among partners was key to taking the dialogue to a higher level.

25. The representative of the secretariat, summing up the gist of the various interventions at the current session, said that it could be captured in the words inclusion, innovation and integration. In regard to inclusion, the message had been that cities were attracting all manner of different people and must embrace and create a safe space for diversity, which called for a commitment to stakeholder participation. On innovation, he said that cities had been depicted as crucibles of innovation but the innovation needed nurturing and to be actively deployed to achieve positive impacts and results. As to integration, examples had been given of vertical integration, across sectors, horizontal integration, across different spheres of governance, and in the work of United Nations entities.

B. Thematic session 1: Promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing

26. The session was moderated by Mr. Mark Eddo and chaired by Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, President of the Governing Council. The panellists were Mr. Sadat Mansoor Naderi, Minister of Urban Development and Housing of Afghanistan; Mr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister of State for Housing of Uganda; Mr. Jayaselan Navaratnam, Deputy Director-General of the National Housing Department of the Ministry of Urban Well-being, Housing and Local Government of Malaysia, on behalf of Ms. Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique, Deputy Minister for Urban Well-being, Housing and Local Government, Malaysia; Mr. Léonard-Emile Ognimba, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Human Development, Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States; Mr. David Ireland, Director of the Building and Social Housing Foundation; and Ms. Claire Szabó, Chief Executive Officer of Habitat for Humanity New Zealand.

1. Panellist presentations

27. In his presentation, Mr. Naderi spoke of the housing situation in Afghanistan, saying that the provision of housing and services for all was one of the three pillars of the urban national priority programme developed in response to the challenges faced. One of those challenges was to provide affordable housing for low-income groups, for the millions of internally displaced persons and for the many informal settlement dwellers while also taking into account the future demand that would be generated in view of the high proportion of youth in the population. The situation created an opportunity, however, in that the housing construction industry fostered the economic development and job creation needed to promote stability and achieve peace in a post-conflict country. A national housing programme was now being formulated, in partnership with UN-Habitat and the World Bank, and community-based savings institutions had been created to help those otherwise unable to obtain mortgages. There was a need to update the legal framework after 40 years of civil war in the country and, as the main urban policymaking and regulatory body, his Ministry was exploring best practices from around the world to emulate and was counting on its institutional partners to ensure that housing remained a key focus in order to create stability, a sense of ownership and jobs for the country's inhabitants.

28. Focusing in his presentation on Ugandan housing issues, Mr. Baryomunsi said that the country's housing deficit was projected to increase dramatically on account of the high population growth rate. A new national housing policy had been developed with the aim of providing adequate and affordable housing for all, with efforts under way to translate it into meaningful interventions on the ground for bridging the housing gap. His Government was also channelling more investment into housing, including for the benefit of key workers, and was working with the World Bank to address the lack of affordable home loans by ensuring access to low-interest financing. It was furthermore establishing housing cooperatives and exploring new construction technologies with a view to providing durable housing at lower cost.

29. In his presentation, Mr. Ireland said that the words of the two previous speakers confirmed that the problem of housing affordability was now global and no longer confined to the Northern hemisphere. As an example of remarkable and innovative schemes for overcoming that problem, he cited community land trusts in which the community owned the land and houses built on it were individually owned. House prices thus remained unaffected by any increase in the land price. In an encouraging sign, the system was now being used in slum upgrading, with informal settlements being turned into community land trusts that enabled the community to raise funds against the value of the land and vastly improve the quality of housing and infrastructure, while still retaining the affordability of the housing.

30. In his presentation on behalf of Ms. Sadique, Mr. Navaratnam said that housing was treated as a productive sector in Malaysia and low-cost housing had been given the highest priority. The country's national transformation programme had been expanded in scale to satisfy the rise in demand for affordable housing, in which connection it was set to achieve its targets early. The Government had launched a housing development programme, known as PRIMA, and was now working on a national housing policy aimed at providing affordable homes as a public good. It was also absorbing the cost of related infrastructure, including a mass rapid transit system, and developing a centralized national database through which to share full information for planning the country's needs.

31. Mr. Ognimba, in his presentation, said that the numbers living in inadequate housing and informal settlements, many of them in ACP countries, presented a gloomy picture. The ACP Group of States was thus working to improve the conditions for slum dwellers in its region through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), run in conjunction with UN-Habitat and the European Commission, while at the global level it was keen to become part and parcel of the New Urban Agenda. PSUP was focused on achieving the strategic vision articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 1, on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, and Goal 11, on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It had made progress in working for inclusiveness to overcome the feeling of exclusion experienced by slum dwellers, involving them in ownership and decision-making. Many ACP countries had also improved their own housing policies to make them more inclusive and were tackling the matter of slums as a priority, including with respect to changing the negative perception of slums as illegal. Public and private stakeholders were helping with funding to address the issues surrounding slums, which presented a complex problem requiring continued efforts to resolve.

32. In her presentation, Ms. Szabó described the work of Habitat for Humanity, recalling that it had built simple decent homes in numerous countries over the past 40 years, and welcomed the New Urban Agenda, in particular for its recognition of decent housing as vital to an adequate standard of living for households and as an integrated platform improving cities. Her organization's commitments to the implementation of the Agenda reflected not only the increasingly complex and intersecting challenges faced the world over but also responded to the recognized need for new partnerships. She explained her organization's part in the collective design and piloting of a new approach to housing development in the small island developing State of Tonga, which she said had much to teach the world about resilience and human potential. Access to adequate and affordable housing increased dignity and prospects, while cities and nations were powered by the energies of human development and endeavour possible only with decent shelter. Her organization looked forward to effective, accountable implementation of the New Urban Agenda and sought to partner with others in building a new urbanized world, with people at the centre and where everyone had a decent place to live.

2. Discussion

33. In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Saderi said that Governments should first establish a housing profile, followed by a housing policy and then appropriate laws and regulations. In his country, housing laws were either non-existent or had remained unchanged throughout the decades of civil war and needed modernizing. To that end, the Government would look to other similar countries for

inspiration. It should also offer incentives for the private sector to develop housing for the poor. With the right approach, it should be possible create affordable housing for those earning basic salaries.

34. Mr. Baryomunsi said that all governance structures, from top to bottom, formed part of the solution to housing problems and that they must work together to develop policy and institute legal reforms. Central and local government must take action to provide affordable housing for all socioeconomic classes, including by engaging the private sector and other stakeholders in their endeavours to that end.

35. Mr. Ireland said with respect to promoting mixed land use and social mixing that private sector involvement and public housing subsidies were worthy aims but also had dangers and limitations. He therefore encouraged ministries to consider non-traditional methods for meeting housing needs, citing the example of a scheme for teaching building techniques to communities who then were able to build their own homes both quickly and cheaply.

C. Thematic session 2: Integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization

36. The session was moderated by Mr. Mark Eddo and chaired by Ms. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay, Ambassador of Colombia to Kenya. The panellists for the session were Mr. Humayoun Faiz, Director of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of Afghanistan; Ms. Firdaous Oussidhoum, Intermediary Cities Forum, UCLG; Mr. Atsushi Koresawa, Senior Director for Research, Real Estate Transaction Improvement Organization and Adviser to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan; Ms. Teresa Boccia, member of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI); and Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Netherlands; and Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

37. Opening the session, the moderator said that the theme of the session was about “joined-up thinking”, or an approach that was both vertical and horizontal: vertical in that it involved getting all tiers of government, as well as the various stakeholders, to work together in the planning process, and horizontal in that it connected the ideas and actions of all the players. Planning, he suggested, should be like a net, integrating both vertical and horizontal aspects.

1. Panellist presentations

38. In his presentation, Mr. Faiz said that urban planning was a major issue and a valuable tool for sustainable development in post-conflict countries. Stressing the need to plan at the vertical and horizontal levels in a timely manner and to ensure collaborative and cooperative integrated urban planning in countries that were undergoing rapid urbanization, he noted that problems arose when different authorities were dealing with the same issues in silos. In addition, late and poor planning often led to the expansion of informal settlements, which in Kabul accounted for 70 per cent of the urban area. As a result, and because the inhabitants of those settlements lacked title deeds and therefore did not pay taxes on their homes, the remaining 30 per cent were paying for the urban services of the entire population. Given the need to implement an integrated urban planning approach that involved the public in a consultative manner, he explained that a national higher urban council had been created in Afghanistan for urban planning stakeholders and civil society to work together. Sustainable urbanization was an opportunity for sustainable development when it was properly managed.

39. In her presentation, Ms. Oussidhoum emphasized the importance attached by UCLG to the role played by local government in localizing and implementing the New Urban Agenda under the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, UCLG was providing guidance through awareness-raising, monitoring and learning activities to ensure a common approach to such implementation. She stressed that the value of human life was a primary consideration in the work of UCLG and, as representatives of their citizens, local governments must uphold that value in considering what kind of cities they wished to build for their people. Cities were not to be conceived merely as markets for economic transactions but as suitable environments for people’s daily lives. It was vital to rethink the approach to cities and, to that end, UCLG had developed tools to guide local governments in urban planning and work with civil society, municipal officials and elected representatives to realize an integrated vision for these spaces. Describing some of those tools, she stressed, in conclusion, that planning was key to the spatial articulation of the urban agenda and that, without planning, there could be no realization of those visions, no implementation and no monitoring.

40. Mr. Koresawa, in his presentation, noted that, while each country had its own particular planning system, at the local and municipal levels the coverage of planning tended to be the same. At higher levels – regional, provincial and national – planning differed widely, since it was strategic in

nature and not geared so much towards implementation. That said, planning at those higher levels was of key importance and Japan was among the few countries that had well-developed and well-coordinated planning systems at all levels of government. Unlike many other developed countries, Japan had relatively recently – within the last 50 or 60 years – progressed from the status of a developing country and its struggle to achieve rapid economic growth and urbanization and to ensure balanced development was therefore well documented, and offered a valuable source of knowledge. The country's experience in that regard had extensively informed the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Regrettably, that knowledge was not widely reflected in English-language literature on the subject and its use remained confined to Japanese international technical cooperation projects. He was therefore pleased to report that, at Habitat III, Japan had pledged to establish a new platform for experience and knowledge sharing and had started work to that end with UN-Habitat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other stakeholders. In addition, Japan proposed, through that initiative, to make further contributions to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, relevant Sustainable Development Goals and the UN-Habitat *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*.

41. Ms. Boccia, in her presentation, focused on the role of women in urban planning and the measures required for the New Urban Agenda to serve as a framework for the empowerment of women. Noting that urbanization and demographic growth would continue at a rapid pace throughout the twenty-first century, she emphasized the need for urban planning to adapt to the different requirements and roles of men and women and called for a new paradigm that would effectively make cities more equitable. Women were moving from rural to urban areas to seek employment and escape poverty, gender violence and discrimination; however, cultures, value systems, beliefs and development policies and programmes were not changing at the same rate, and gender-based discrimination was still widespread in the social, economic and political spheres. Although studies by UN-Habitat had shown that urbanization was associated with women's prosperity, she said that, in practice, few women actually benefitted from the economic growth of cities. Therefore, in analysing the specific needs of women during design and urban planning processes, it was necessary to have systematic access to disaggregated statistics by gender in order to find the most appropriate solutions and determine the real impact of urban policies.

42. Mr. Ovink opened his remarks by noting the fundamental disconnect between past and future planning policies. Future risks would be increasingly complex, he said, but were also interdependent, calling for a more comprehensive approach. The impacts of risks were particularly interrelated at the city scale, and planning and design were key to addressing them. He listed five key ingredients for turning a long-term comprehensive approach to planning into action: projects, which were ideally innovative and transformative; a plan, to prevent projects from merely being incidents; an inclusive process that matched global talent with the talent of the places at risk and in development; transparency, which was inclusive and built capacity; and design, which blended everything together, made things actionable, and, most importantly, was inspirational and aspirational. Finally, he said, working in silos was ineffective, and it was sometimes necessary to bypass established ways of doing things. The UN-Habitat urban planning and design labs achieved that by creating a safe place for people to meet, collaborate, improve their understanding and aspirations, and achieve a better level of implementation. The labs were a proven technology; the next step was to replicate them and scale them up through projects in order to start changing policies and planning and investment strategies, and build coalitions. The labs, he concluded, were one way to implement the New Urban Agenda quickly, by bringing the right people together at the right time.

43. In her remarks, the Deputy Executive Director said that the urban planning and design labs had been shown to be effective in demystifying and simplifying planning as a technical tool, in contexts of both development and crisis. The labs had the advantage of combining spatial planning with a process of engagement, leading participants to think about legislation and governance, as well as the business model. Turning to other points mentioned by some of the panellists, she noted that not everything that happened in cities was under the authority of their mayors, and the national urban policies in the new urban agenda were important because they enabled Governments to engage with local authorities constructively and strategically. On the question of implementation, she noted that the fastest urbanization was occurring in secondary cities that did not have the needed resources and had not captured the attention of the leadership. In those cities in particular, urban-rural linkages were key, and the UN-Habitat *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning* could help national leaders improve those linkages. Lastly, she turned to the question of informal settlements and slums, saying that while work to date had primarily consisted of reacting to a crisis of urban poverty, the New Urban Agenda would help stakeholders to look beyond that, to plan ahead and think strategically.

2. Discussion

44. In the ensuing discussion, responding to a question regarding the role of the private sector, Mr. Ovink noted that the private sector included many players. Academia, for instance, was needed for research that enhanced understanding of vulnerabilities and interdependencies, which led to opportunities for transformative change and capacity-building. The private sector was needed both for its experts and for financing. He added that for successful implementation, it was important to invest in the project development process so as to maximize added value, which often made the difference in project success. That meant putting the right expertise in place from the research stage through to implementation, partnering with everyone to build trust with public and private partners, communities, and individuals, and testing the business case. At the same time, however, current project evaluation capacity needed to be improved so that the business case properly captured the added value generated by an integrated approach that produced innovative, inclusive projects.

45. One participant said that if the New Urban Agenda was to be more than a political slogan, it was essential to take into account not only infrastructure, housing and transportation, but also aspects like the poverty-stricken population and gender inequalities. He also noted a general tendency to focus on metropolises, and suggested that intermediate cities had to be taken equally seriously if the New Urban Agenda was to ensure that the coming challenges were surmounted. Ms. Oussidhoum concurred, adding that action taken in intermediate cities had an impact on the entire territory due to their stronger rural-urban links. She also underscored the important role played by the private sector in the development of intermediate cities. Lastly, she drew attention to the first world forum on intermediate cities, to be held in Morocco in May 2018.

D. Session 3: Synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization

46. The session was moderated by Mr. Eddo and chaired by Ms. Taylor Jay. The panellists for the session were Mr. Michael Nolan, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact, Cities Programme; Mr. Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General, Council of European Municipalities and Regions; Mr. Jean Claude Mbwentchou, Minister, Housing and Urban Development, Cameroon; Mr. Istabraq Al-Shouk, Deputy Minister, Construction, Housing, Municipalities and Public Works, Iraq; Mr. William Britt Gwinner, Head of Global Housing Finance, International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group; Mr. Carlos Estuardo Barillas Estrada, Deputy Minister of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing, Guatemala; Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), United Nations Development Programme.

47. The moderator opened the session by saying that while the New Urban Agenda offered an opportunity for sustainable urbanization, the financing of its implementation was critical. Much more than developing new forms of financing or mortgages or the right land tenure, that meant applying a vertical and horizontal approach in order to harness both existing and new economic models.

1. Panellist presentations

48. In his presentation, Mr. Nolan said that finding the right partnerships between the public and private sectors was critical in achieving the objectives of the New Urban Agenda and ensuring sustainable urban development. The Cities Programme, a United Nations Global Compact initiative, had been working for 15 years to form a successful model of partnership development led by cities in collaboration with appropriate private sector organizations with the right vision and necessary governance. Through such partnerships, activities could be scaled up with the support of a wide range of stakeholders at the level of the United Nations and national Governments, with a view to attracting finance. Noting that the majority of investment in cities was private, he said that, for that investment to be used in support of the New Urban Agenda, private sector investment, good governance and sound partnerships were required between the public and private sectors, driven by demand at the city level. Synergies with universities and business schools, investors and organizations that would support the seeding of projects at the appropriate scale were also required. He recognized the model of Scandinavian countries with a long tradition of empowering municipalities as particularly relevant.

49. Mr. Vallier began his presentation by saying that there could be no development without local development; there could be no local development without investment; and there could be no investment without financing. Noting that in Europe 70 per cent of public investment was made at the local level and had proven to be a significant driver for development, he said that in the context of the New Urban Agenda it was necessary to support the empowerment of local government through financing and partnerships between local, regional and national governments and supranational authorities, such as the African Union and the European Union. As recognized in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, more investment was required at the local level to deliver the critical public services and infrastructure that were needed to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, in many developing countries, and particularly in least developed countries, low local government revenues had led to an increase in service and infrastructure gaps and informal settlements, which had thus weakened the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals over the past decade.

50. In his presentation, Mr. Mbwentchou said that the issues of financing and coordination were crucial to urban development, as they were directly related to land tenure and taxation. Those were matters of great concern for all African countries, including his own, Cameroon, and it was vital to have structures in place to coordinate all financing-related measures and the various sources of financing. Accordingly, following the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, Cameroon had created a ministry for housing and urban planning. Planning, however, had to be performed in an integrated manner, involving other bodies, such as the ministries responsible for economy and urban planning, and for finance. Describing measures applied in Cameroon since that time, he said that new structures had made possible the creation of real-estate initiatives and the introduction of extensive changes to urban planning and management. The State had to make investments and to support local and decentralized authorities, since, pursuant to the country's 2004 act on urban planning, local authorities were the primary stakeholders in urban development. Stressing the importance of international cooperation to the financing of urban development, he noted that, in Cameroon, cities accounted for 65 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, yet they did not benefit to the same extent from their production. It was vital, in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, for Governments and those involved in urban management to focus on what cities and towns produced and for a change in thinking about cities: cities must also be able to consume, as well as to produce. The prosperity of cities was important also to rural areas and, recalling calls by UN-Habitat for a balance between rural and urban development, he confirmed that, in Cameroon, efforts were being made to rethink its national urban policies accordingly.

51. In his presentation, Mr. Al-Shouk reviewed his country's exceptional experience in the use of financing to rehabilitate its cities and to repopulate areas affected by conflict. He looked, in particular, at the three northern provinces which had been hardest hit by the activities of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), resulting in the partial or complete destruction of towns, the halting of all development, and the wholesale exodus of populations. The provinces lacked administrative regulations and authorities and faced enormous challenges. Following their liberation, rapid planning by the Government was needed to enable displaced persons to return and live in those areas, by carrying out the rehabilitation of infrastructure, water supplies and housing, demining, rubble-clearing and road maintenance. The role of the national Government, working together with the private sector, was key to the success of this endeavour. Integrated planning was required, to involve other countries in the region and international organizations, in accordance with their experience and, in general, to secure the help of the international community. In conclusion, he stressed that valuable lessons were to be learned from that experience of reconstruction.

52. Addressing the question of synergies and the important aspects of finance in his work, Mr. Gwinner named time and scale as the two main components of synergies in urban development and financing of private and public infrastructure. Financing of the kinds of assets involved, such as road systems and houses, required long-term horizons to allow for 20 to 30-year bonds and long-term loans, he explained. In emerging markets with high inflation and high bank interest rates, most people were not able to undertake long-term borrowing due to the amounts to be paid in interest. It was therefore important to have a macro environment with a sufficiently low inflation rate, to enable most people to borrow in order to buy housing and cities to invest, issue bonds and borrow in the markets. Using Colombia as an example, he underscored the underlying importance of, inter alia, bringing down inflation, creating institutions such as private pension funds that made it possible to issue bonds, and transparency and efficiency in public institution finances. Having a vision from the outset could create synergies over time, he said, with long-term financing and the participation of different levels of government. Regarding the second component, scale, he noted the immense housing demand ahead, particularly in developing economies, and said that partnership with local and national authorities was needed, within a legal and regulatory framework that allowed long-term bonds to be issued and credit to be made available to people with a low income.

53. In his presentation, Mr. Barillas Estrada pointed out that Guatemala was the least urbanized country in the most urbanized region of the world. His Government aimed to use urbanization as the backbone of its development process and, in so doing, to concentrate investment – both public and private – in secondary cities, as those were the fastest growing and investment was needed to make them more competitive. In response to a question from the moderator, he affirmed the importance and effectiveness of public-private partnerships. Reviewing specific projects mounted in his country, he stressed the need for transparency in analysing projects and their anticipated benefits, with a view to demonstrating how much needed to be invested and what returns there would be for private sector

investors. Recognizing that local governments did not have the capacity to invest or even to generate the conditions to attract investment, the national Government was working in a participatory way with local governments in the area of planning, to ensure that they properly understood the link between the rural areas and the economic role of the cities. Lastly, noting that 60 per cent of the Guatemalan population worked in the informal sector and were therefore unable to secure loans for housing, he described an initiative to remedy that situation: a guarantee fund had been set up to encourage financial institutions to grant loans to those in the informal sector and he confirmed that good progress was already being made in that regard.

54. Ms. Topping began her remarks by saying that the notion of synergy and finance was at the heart of the MPTF Office, which had been set up to look at the design of financial instruments and administration to support efficient and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships. In its work around joint and pooled financing to support such partnerships, the agency had discovered that the design of finance and financial instruments had a powerful effect on collaboration, synergies, effectiveness, transformation, and the type of transformative change that could take place, as well as risk management. Financial instruments specially designed to provide an incentive for collaboration could have a transformative effect by pulling the partners together, and were more cost efficient because duplication was eliminated. Having worked to map the synergetic finance landscape with UN-Habitat, the World Bank Group, the United Nations Global Compact Cities Programme and other partners following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the MPTF Office had also determined that while there were initiatives around partnership and investment, there was very little of the type of financing that supported coalition around the common agenda. In the lead-up to Habitat III, the MPTF Office and its partners had therefore taken the opportunity to respond to that gap, and had designed the multi-partner implementation facility for sustainable urban development to support partnerships around the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. Responding to a question from the moderator, Ms. Topping indicated that anyone interested in accessing the facility should contact an office of UN-Habitat, the World Bank Group or the United Nations Global Compact Cities Programme.

2. Discussion

55. In the ensuing discussion, one participant, noting that the New Urban Agenda recognized that the private sector should play a big role and that in her experience the private sector was willing to do so, asked what kind of incentives and regulations were needed for truly inclusive private sector investment, most notably to balance risk.

56. Mr. Nolan said that the right incentives were needed, ranging from in-kind assistance, skills, data and technology to funding for small and medium-sized enterprises. In terms of incentives, private sector investors were looking for trust and the ability to determine their own role in supporting the development of urban housing, smart city innovation, community connectivity and sustainable infrastructure. The scale of such support ranged from low-cost innovative partnerships to large-scale urban development and infrastructure. The private sector needed to work collaboratively with Governments to improve cities, which were the driving force of communities and the economy.

57. In response to a question by the moderator about how to prevent bottlenecks that may hinder the reception of funds, Mr. Vallier said that for local authorities to have the capacity to absorb available funds and to deal with the private sector, they needed to have the appropriate means to establish specific policies and exchange good practices. Emphasizing that certain services could not be delivered through public-private partnerships, he said that there was a need to help cities to identify the services that could be delegated to the private sector or organized in partnership with them, such as energy delivery services, and to evaluate their return on investment, particularly in least developed countries. Cities could be the driving force behind the economic development of a country, but it was necessary to identify the areas in which the private sector could be most effective.

58. A representative of the secretariat summarized the discussion by highlighting opportunities for implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals described during the discussion, in particular the need to consider legislation, urban planning and design, and economy and municipal finance in an integrated way. In the same vein, challenges pertaining to time and scale as well as the quality of interventions needed to be considered, including processes and partnerships. He added that in order to promote finance for sustainable urbanization, the importance of equity and sustainability would need to be integrated into the discourse.

59. In her closing remarks, the chair stressed that innovative financing required creativity. She noted that not all solutions were universally applicable and emphasized the need to work through effective partnerships.

Annex V

Report of the Committee of the Whole

I. Introduction

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Monday, 8 May 2017, the Governing Council agreed to establish a sessional committee of the whole to consider agenda items 5, 6, 8 and 9.
2. The Committee of the Whole was co-chaired by Mr. James Macharia, one of the three Vice-Presidents of the Governing Council.

II. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters (agenda item 5)

3. The Committee took up the item at its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 8 May 2017. In organizing its work, it agreed to entrust consideration of the draft resolutions set out in document HSP/GC/26/3/Add.1 to the drafting committee that had been established by the Governing Council.
4. The Committee also agreed to take up the following issues arising under agenda item 5: report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HSP/GC/26/2); report of the Executive Director on the working group on programme and budget (HSP/GC/26/2/Add.1); report of the Executive Director on cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other UN-Habitat partners in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 (HSP/GC/26/2/Add.2); joint progress report of the executive directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on joint activities in the urban environment (HSP/GC/26/2/Add.3); note by the secretariat on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period (HSP/GC/26/3); report of the Executive Director on progress in the implementation of Governing Council resolution 25/6 on the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning (HSP/GC/26/INF/2).

A. Overview

5. The Deputy Executive Director introduced the documents on the item, highlighting significant activities by UN-Habitat over the reporting period. She drew attention, in particular, to the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UN-Habitat, set out in document HSP/GC/26/2, and its four addenda, and confirmed that, in implementing the resolutions of the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session, UN Habitat had continued its three-pronged approach to sustainable urbanization and human settlements development, focusing on urban legislation, land and governance, urban planning and design, and urban economy and municipal finance.
6. Following that general review, the Committee took note of the report.
7. The Deputy Executive Director then turned her attention to the issues covered by addenda 2 and 3 to the Executive Director's report (HSP/GC/26/2), as summarized in the following sections.

B. Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other partners in the implementation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme medium-term strategic and institutional plan

8. The Deputy Executive Director drew attention to the report of the Executive Director (HSP/GC/26/2/Add.2), reviewing progress in cooperation by UN-Habitat with other entities over the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016, including the landmark year of 2016, during which the New Urban Agenda had been adopted at Habitat III in Quito.
9. The Committee took note of the report.

C. Joint progress report of the executive directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

10. The Deputy Executive Director then reviewed key elements of the joint progress report of the executive directors of UNEP and UN-Habitat (HSP/GC/26/2/Add.3), providing an overview of key activities and progress made over the biennium 2015–2016 in strengthening cooperation between the two programmes.

11. The Committee took note of the report.

III. Review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (agenda item 6)

12. The Committee took up the item at its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 8 May 2017.

13. The Deputy Executive Director introduced the report of the Executive Director on the review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (HSP/GC/26/4), prepared pursuant to Governing Council resolution 25/5. Recalling that the General Assembly of the United Nations had, in its resolution 71/256, endorsed the outcome document of Habitat III, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, adopted by Heads of State and Government, ministers and high representatives in Quito in October 2016, she briefly described the impact of the New Urban Agenda on UN-Habitat, and steps being taken towards its implementation.

14. The Committee took note of the report.

IV. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2018–2019 (agenda item 8)

15. The Committee took up the item at its 2nd meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 9 May 2017.

16. A representative of the secretariat presented the report of the Executive Director on the proposed work programme and budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (HSP/GC/26/6), noting that it had been built on the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 and the biennial strategic framework for 2018–2019, as revised in response to recent global strategic processes, and reflected the mandates of UN-Habitat, including its role in supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11, on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It furthermore uniquely positioned UN-Habitat to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, notably by coordinating a quadrennial progress report that would also analyse progress achieved towards internationally agreed goals and targets relevant to sustainable urbanization and human settlements. Prepared in close consultation with the subcommittee on policy and programme of work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the proposed work programme and budget would be implemented through the seven subprogrammes of UN-Habitat, as listed in paragraph 9 of the report, which were to be jointly delivered in a matrix structure by regional offices and branches. In continuing to provide specialized and integrated products and services in support of sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat would focus on the main strategies presented in paragraph 10 of the report. The selected outputs, he added, were designed to be transformational, relevant, high value, adequate and necessary to achieve the expected accomplishments.

17. In its report (HSP/GC/26/6/Add.1, annex), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had welcomed, among other things, the report of the Executive Director on the proposed work programme for the biennium 2018–2019; encouraged further efforts to mobilize non-earmarked voluntary contributions; reiterated the need for ongoing review of posts long vacant; and emphasized that reporting requirements on progress towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda should be reflected in the proposed budget for the 2018–2019 biennium.

18. Recalling the purpose and methodology of the midterm evaluation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019, he outlined the evaluation questions and the key findings obtained therefrom, as set out in the summary of the report of the evaluation (HSP/GC/26/6/Add.2), highlighting in particular the progress recorded, as well as the recommendations for potential action in the four areas identified with

a view to increasing the relevance of the work of UN-Habitat. The Programme was now putting together a management response to those recommendations and an action plan for their implementation.

19. He pointed to the three sources that funded the work of UN-Habitat, as described in the section of the report entitled “Financial overview”, and said that the resource requirements for the 2018–2019 biennium were projected at \$499.8 million, consisting of \$19.4 million for regular budget allocations; \$26.1 million for the Foundation general purpose budget; and \$139.9 million and \$314.4 million for the Foundation special purpose and technical cooperation resources, respectively. The total projected resource requirements for the biennium represented an increase of some 3.6 per cent over the previous biennium, while the regular budget proposal, amounting to \$19.4 million, represented a reduction of 13.8 per cent, taking into consideration some adjustments for the non-recurrent activity of Habitat III, and the Foundation general purpose budget proposal, amounting to \$26.1 million, a reduction of 42.8 per cent. Noting that the funding target reflected the requirements of UN-Habitat in meeting its mandated objectives, he said that UN-Habitat would continue to implement its full cost recovery policy to ensure that core resources did not subsidize earmarked activities, which was both good practice and in full compliance with the resolutions adopted on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Programme Review process in 2012 and 2016. In response to declining core resources, UN-Habitat continued to strengthen its resource mobilization capability through regular discussions with its contributing partners and enhancement of its related policy and infrastructure. It was promoting the growth of its portfolio and shifting activities to earmarked funded projects, where appropriate. It was furthermore continuing, in the spirit of doing more with less, to ensure effectiveness, efficiency and economy in the implementation of its programme of work.

20. He added that the first financial statements released since UN-Habitat had started to employ the Umoja enterprise resource planning system had instantly passed the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) certification with a clean audit opinion and that financial statements for 2016 – the first to be wholly prepared from Umoja – were now in the process of being audited. The expectation was that the combination of IPSAS and Umoja would accrue benefits commensurate with international standards of reporting and provide critical information for control and decision-making. He expressed the commitment of the Executive Director to leading the transformation of UN-Habitat into a more efficient, transparent, accountable and productive organization.

21. In the ensuing discussion one representative asked whether the strategic plan for 2014–2019 would be revised in the light of the recommendations of its mid-term evaluation; whether there were provisions to align the proposed strategic framework for 2018–2019 with the framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; and what would happen if the Programme failed to secure the expected resources to meet its budget requirement.

22. The representative of the secretariat, responding to the first question, said that the evaluators' recommendations would not entail any major changes to the targets and objectives of the strategic plan but that member States might decide, at the current session, that the plan did need adjusting in the intersessional period, adding that the implementation of the recommendations in areas such as knowledge management and communication would have budgetary implications. Responding to the second question, he said that the work to finalize the strategic framework had yet to begin; that there were many ways in which member States might choose to guide UN-Habitat in adapting it to the framework for implementing the New Urban Agenda, which was still under development; and that there were other parallel processes whose outcomes might require legislative changes, such as the high-level assessment of UN-Habitat initiated by the United Nations Secretary-General and the monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As to the question of resources, he gave the example of the cost-cutting and prioritization efforts that UN-Habitat had made to address the problem of dwindling contributions to the Foundation general purpose budget in recent years, pointing out that without the necessary funding to meet its financial requirements the Programme might be unable to undertake some of the work requested by member States. The focus in drafting the work programme and budget for 2018–2019, he said, had been on setting ambitious enough targets for implementing the New Urban Agenda while enabling UN-Habitat to fulfil its role as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and, at the same time, remaining fiscally responsible. In view of the growing demand for its services, as reflected in a 25 per cent increase in earmarked resources in 2016, however, he said that UN-Habitat would manage to cover its \$500 million funding requirement for the biennium, as long as the Member States that valued its normative work and support for least developed countries recognized that it relied on their contributions to finance the \$26.1 million requirement of the Foundation general purpose fund.

23. Further discussion then ensued in which several representatives expressed concern that their countries and others facing the prospect of rapidly increasing urbanization, especially in Africa and

Latin America, were highly unlikely to succeed in implementing the New Urban Agenda without the continued support of UN-Habitat. Suggestions for the work programme and budget for 2018–2019 included particular emphasis on, inter alia, capacity-building, the development of toolkits, the promotion of autonomous growth for local government, efforts to seek additional funding from the agricultural and mining sectors and public-private partnership.

24. The representative of the secretariat, responding to the various comments, stressed that capacity-building was and would remain central to the work of UN-Habitat in assisting regional, national and local government to meet the challenges of urbanization through a strong project portfolio and a track record of accomplishing much with relatively little.

25. The Committee took note of the report.

V. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council (agenda item 9)

26. The Committee took up the item at its 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of Thursday, 11 May 2017. The Deputy Executive Director outlined the proposed agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, as set out in a conference room paper, and said that the session would be held from 8 to 12 April 2019. She drew attention to a proposed item on the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, which she said would have to be approved in 2019. In responding to a question regarding the World Urban Forum, she added that the biennial work programme for 2018–2019 included an evaluation of the last three sessions of the World Urban Forum, and that the inclusion of an item devoted to the Forum on the agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council reflected the growing strategic importance of the Forum as a platform for dialogue among Member States and stakeholders.

27. In response to a question, the representative of the secretariat provided additional clarification, noting that draft resolutions were adopted under the agenda item on the adoption of the report.

28. The Committee endorsed the provisional agenda and proposed dates for the twenty-seventh session for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

VI. Endorsement of draft resolutions

29. Following the deliberations of the drafting committee, the Committee of the Whole endorsed 10 draft resolutions at its 4th and final meeting, on Friday, 12 May 2017, and agreed that they should be transmitted to the Governing Council for possible adoption.

VII. Other matters

30. At the 3rd meeting of the Committee, on the afternoon of Thursday, 11 May 2017, the secretary of the Committee, Mr. Eduardo Moreno, noted that the Committee had not yet elected two co-chairs and a rapporteur as there had not been any nominations for those positions, and suggested that the Governing Council should consider the matter at its twenty-eighth session to ensure that appropriate representation was in place at all levels as provided for in the rules of procedure for the Governing Council. The Chair indicated that the Committee would proceed without co-chairs for the remainder of the meeting, and that the function of rapporteur of the Committee would be assumed by the Rapporteur of the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council.

31. During the meeting, statements were made by two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries asked that the list of delegations attending the session be circulated as soon as possible. The second speaker noted that a draft resolution had been submitted to the Governing Council for its consideration for the first time the previous day, and requested that representatives' obligation to convey all draft resolutions to their capitals for comments and observations be taken into consideration in the future.