

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

HSP/GC/26/CRP.8

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Nairobi, 8–12 May 2017

Agenda item 5

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

Draft resolution 26/[]: World Urban Forum

Submission by the African Group

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,¹

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, 22/10 and 23/5,

Reiterating the objectives of the World Urban 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 2002,²

Expressing appreciation for the reports of the Executive Director on the sixth and seventh sessions of the Forum,³

¹ General Assembly resolutions 60/203 of 22 December 2005 and 62/198 of 19 December 2007.

² Available at http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/WUF1_report.pdf.

³ HSP/GC/24/2/Add.2 and HSP/GC/25/2/Add.2.

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 eighth session of the Forum is being coordinated in at United Nations Headquarters 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 processes (including the general public).

Expressing appreciation for the successful organization of the sixth and seventh sessions of, and the growing interest of the global community in, the World Urban 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 World Urban 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 World Urban 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 Forum⁴ 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,⁵ 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;

⁴ HSP/GC/23/INF/3.

⁵ HSP/GC/23/2/Add.3.

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 to ensure 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;
 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.
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