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Conference B (13 - 17 April 2014)



Documentation of the Work of the  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

# United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

## Committee Staff

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## Agenda

- I. Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation
- II. Gender Equality in Human Settlements Development
- III. UN-HABITAT and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Document Code	Topic	Vote
UNHABITAT/RES/1/1	Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation	31/3/4/1
UNHABITAT/RES/1/2	Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation	26/6/6/1
UNHABITAT/RES/1/3	Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation	28/7/3/1
UNHABITAT/RES/1/4	Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation	33/1/4/1
UNHABITAT/RES/1/5	Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation	33/3/2/1

# Summary Report

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. UN-HABITAT and the Post-2015 Development Agenda
- II. Gender Equality in Human Settlements Development
- III. Enhancing Living Standards in Slums through Cooperation

The session was attended by representatives of 39 Member States, as well as 1 non-governmental organization. The session opened with several statements concerning the setting of the agenda. After going into a suspension of the meeting, the committee adopted an order of 3, 2, 1. Upon adoption of the agenda, discussions on the topic of “Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation” began and delegates started forming working groups.

On Monday afternoon, delegates organized themselves into seven main groups. Delegates primarily discussed the initiation of new programs which would reduce the intensity of slum living. Building on this, Monday’s evening session saw themes such as education, women empowerment, enhancement of living standards through rural investments, and self-organization discussed. The dais received only one working paper by the end of the day. On Tuesday morning, the dais received three more working papers which focused on education, women, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development. Later on, the dais received three more working papers. Finally, during the afternoon segment, the dais received two more working papers focusing on urban development, local security programs, business sourcing foods and health and sanitation. By the end of Tuesday’s evening session, a number of the working groups decided to merge their papers and the collaboration efforts were commendable.

On Wednesday morning, the committee accepted two draft resolutions. In the afternoon, three more working papers were approved as draft resolutions and distributed to the committee. Returning to formal session, the speaker’s list was closed with a remaining 17 countries. Upon completion of the speaker’s list, the committee moved into voting procedure, and the dais received two friendly amendments and three unfriendly amendments, one for each resolution.

All of the five draft resolutions were adopted by the body, all by placard vote. Each one of these resolutions included ideals that UN-HABITAT would echo: encouraging self-sufficiency within a sustainable framework, basic access to human rights, especially that of water and general health, and women’s and youth empowerment. During each session, the delegates remained diplomatic, presented intelligent ideas, and shared a strong commitment to the enhancement of living standards in slums through cooperation.

**Code:** UNHABITAT/RES/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Human Settlements Programme

**Topic:** Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation

1 *The United Nations Human Settlements Programme,*

2  
3 *Recalling the International Conference on Population and Development's reaffirmation of women's reproductive*  
4 *rights and the right to development,*

5  
6 *Disturbed by the World Health Organization's assessment that 13,000 premature children die in slums as a result of*  
7 *unsanitary conditions and lack of access to healthcare,*

8  
9 *Recognizing the progress made by the members of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-*  
10 *HABITAT) in reducing the proportion of people living in poverty,*

11  
12 *Further recognizing Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that assesses the right to health, as*  
13 *well as special care and assistance for motherhood,*

14  
15 *Commending the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health*  
16 *Commodity Security (RHCS), which ensures access to a reliable supply of medicine and equipment for family*  
17 *planning, prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and maternal health,*

18  
19 *Highly concerned with the challenges of overpopulation and inequality in human settlements,*

- 20  
21 1. *Proclaims* a need for improving availability of health care facilities for women in slums;  
22  
23 2. *Calls for* a cooperative effort between UN-HABITAT and the UNFPA Global Programme to enhance  
24 *Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) in countries with low levels of development, as well as those*  
25 *that are part of the RHCS;*  
26  
27 3. *Requests* the Executive Director to elaborate a platform for collaboration between UN-HABITAT and the  
28 *UNFPA which would:*  
29  
30 a. *Extend the scope of RCHS as part of a UN-HABITAT initiative to promote development in slums;*  
31  
32 b. *Work on the establishment of women health clinics in slums, funded by the governments of*  
33 *Finland and Norway as volunteer UN-HABITAT donors;*  
34  
35 c. *Within the framework of these clinics, provide free obstetric and gynecological services to*  
36 *expectant mothers and women in need who reside in slums;*  
37  
38 d. *Assist communities in matters of family planning and access to information by establishing*  
39 *counseling and information programs to educate women in these matters, as well as those of,*  
40 *prenatal healthcare, birth control, and sexual education;*  
41  
42 e. *Be funded by the governments of Finland and Norway, as well as volunteer donors who would*  
43 *like to contribute;*  
44  
45 4. *Further requests* the Executive Director to consult with the governments of the countries and the local  
46 *communities involved in the initiative on the implementation of the clinics;*  
47  
48 5. *Supports* the establishment of the program as part of the effort to reach Millennium Development Goal 3 (to  
49 *promote gender equality and empowering women) and Goal 4 (to reduce child mortality rates) by:*  
50  
51 a. *Promoting women's reproductive rights by empowerment and education on the topic;*  
52

- 53                    b. Improving the living standards of women and children in slums by focusing on their health needs;  
54  
55                    c. Overcome the challenges of disease and overpopulation by providing communities with the  
56                    necessary medical care;  
57  
58 6. *Recommends* that a significant portion of UN-HABITAT Member States, as well as non-governmental  
59 organizations (NGOs), collaborate in raising awareness as well as contributions for the implementation of the  
60 program.

**Code:** UNHABITAT/RES/1/2

**Committee:** United Nations Human Settlements Programme

**Topic:** Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation

1 *The United Nations Human Settlements Programme,*

2  
3 *Reaffirming the need for Member States to cooperate when confronting the diverse obstacles concerning the need*  
4 *for enhanced living conditions in slums around the world,*

5  
6 *Recalling agreements reached in General Assembly Resolution 66/288 The Future We Want, such as the need for*  
7 *more resilient and stable infrastructures in urban slums, furthering sustainable development at all levels,*

8  
9 *Recognizing the interrelatedness and the integration of economic, social, and environmental aspects in improving*  
10 *the conditions of slum inhabitants and enabling them to be actively involved participants in urban development,*

11  
12 *Recognizing, with paragraph eight of the Habitat Agenda, that financial equality and stability are key to elevating*  
13 *living standards in slums, and that microfinance can assist traditionally disenfranchised individuals in establishing*  
14 *sustainable businesses and jobs by catalyzing job creation and entrepreneurial activities,*

15  
16 *Keeping in mind the exceptional work of groups such as the Cities Alliance, Cities Without Slums, the Participatory*  
17 *Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP), and UN-HABITAT's National Urban Policies plan,*

18  
19 *Alarmed by the increasing impact of natural disasters as a consequence of climate change, validated by the 2013*  
20 *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) Report,*

- 21  
22 1. *Calls upon* Member States to see cooperation as an essential goal which leads to sustainability, recognizing the  
23 transnational nature of slum dwelling, and considering the economic, social, and environmental implications  
24 which often cross national boundaries, this body proposes:  
25
- 26 a. The expansion of frameworks created by groups, such as *Cities Alliance*, whose successful city-to-  
27 city implementation in Ethiopia could stand as a model for cooperation between nations;  
28
  - 29 b. The enhancing of programs to include urban development planning, idea sharing, and technical  
30 assistance, and the fostering of cooperation through partnerships among slum dwellers while also  
31 strengthening local initiatives on urban governance;  
32
- 33 2. *Recommends* the creation of a streamlined pathway to provide access to less costly and more resilient  
34 infrastructure materials, by the cooperation of Member States through:  
35
- 36 a. Forums intended to provide cooperative dialogue between states in order to discuss which resilient  
37 materials within their region would be most beneficial;  
38
  - 39 b. Purchasing Power Agreements (PPAs) between states, with the understanding that economic  
40 partnerships pertaining to the acquisition of resilient infrastructure materials would enhance purchasing  
41 power for individual states;  
42
  - 43 c. Providing the means to create economically and socially sustainable housing situations, and therefore  
44 enhance the living standards in slums;  
45
- 46 3. *Encourages* Member States to limit commodity speculation, which in the past has risen the cost of building  
47 materials to a level not conducive for developing nations and would work to counteract the financial advantages  
48 facilitated by PPAs, by the adoption of reasonable regulatory mechanisms such as:  
49
- 50 a. Ensuring payment of all speculator investments within two business days, which would discourage  
51 the creation of artificial demands and serve to promote fair market commodity rates;  
52

- 53                   b. Increasing down payments on trades that are speculative in nature to further discourage unethical  
54                   speculator investments;  
55
- 56 4. *Appeals* to the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to cooperate with UN-HABITAT as a  
57 means to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the UNCDF mission, specifically:  
58
- 59                   a. Their focus on promoting economic development in developing countries and economic growth as  
60                   a catalyst for enhancing living standards;  
61
- 62                   b. In its collaborative work with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Accountability  
63                   System (DP/200816/Rev.1);  
64
- 65 5. *Endorses* the creation of the Sustainable Urban Microfinance program (SUM), which would work to:  
66
- 67                   a. Recruit and gauge Member States' interest levels in working with UNCDF, seeking to expand the  
68                   influence of the UNCDF with a specific goal towards micro financing in human settlements  
69                   development;  
70
- 71                   b. Be a bridge between the UNCDF and UN-HABITAT through information sharing, databases, and  
72                   encouraging states to understand the incentives that come from cooperating with the UNCDF;  
73
- 74                   c. Follow up with loan recipients annually to gauge their progress and continually seek to gain  
75                   understanding to what may inhibit Member States and other agencies from appealing to the  
76                   UNCDF;  
77
- 78 6. *Decides* to expand the use of UN-HABITAT's National Urban Policies for the purpose of cooperation between  
79 Member States, private sector entities, and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) in order to share valuable  
80 expertise pertaining to the best practices available when planning the structure and development of urban spaces  
81 by extending the already existing database of urban profiles for the purpose of consolidating succinct data on  
82 the degree of deprivation present in each slum area, so that the UN-HABITAT could expand its National Urban  
83 Policies to include specified training opportunities for various factors of urban and sustainability planning, and  
84 further attempt to:  
85
- 86                   a. Create a forum between regional, national, and local leaders to encourage the sharing of best  
87                   practices, technology, cultural, and economic understanding;  
88
- 89                   b. Teach local and regional stake holders, as well as city planners, in developing urban areas that  
90                   show the highest level of deprivation;  
91
- 92                   c. Provide insight into how the lack of knowledge, about best practices for sustainability, limits the  
93                   chances of enhancing slum life;  
94
- 95 7. *Requests* that Member States acknowledge and work in the future to address the lack of sufficient international  
96 frameworks concerning intensifying national phenomena caused by human induced climate change, while  
97 continuing to incorporate and expand innovative regulatory policies that enable greater adaptation in the face of  
98 the aforementioned global threat by:  
99
- 100                   a. Using UN-HABITAT's Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) to request climate change  
101                   vulnerability assessments and climate change action plans for cities at risk of producing high  
102                   levels of displaced peoples due to natural disaster;  
103
- 104                   b. Enacting climate sensitive policies when considering urban development in slum areas,  
105                   specifically by channeling CCCI policy support mechanisms.

**Code:** UNHABITAT/RES/1/3

**Committee:** United Nations Human Settlements Programme

**Topic:** Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation

1 *The United Nations Human Settlements Programme,*

2  
3 *Recalling* “The Challenge of Slums: Global Report on Human Settlements 2003” which expresses the difficulties  
4 that some countries are facing with regards to achieving the development on human settlements,  
5

6 *Recalling* the Beijing Platform for Action that recognizes the feminization of poverty and the need to elaborate a  
7 greater protection of women’s rights,  
8

9 *Aware of* the fact that women play a major role in economic prosperity and raising the standard of living within a  
10 country’s borders,  
11

12 *Having considered* that development in human settlements demands the promotion of women in leadership positions  
13 as stated in the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*,  
14

15 *Recognizing* the importance of The Gender Equality Action Assembly/World Urban Forum 5 (2010) as a means to  
16 promote the inclusion of women in society,  
17

18 *Affirming* the vital importance of women in human settlements recognized in the General Assembly Resolution  
19 50/165 (1996) urging governments to develop policies in order to include the full participation of women and men in  
20 both rural and urban areas,  
21

22 *Recognizing* the fact that women and girls make up the majority of people affected by malnutrition, poverty, lack of  
23 education, and poor hygienic practices leading to disease,  
24

25 *Observing* the importance of the inclusion of women in sustainable urban development expressed through the UN-  
26 HABITAT Resolution 24/11 (2013),  
27

28 *Noting with regret* that women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century continue to have a stigma in the workforce,  
29

30 *Recalling* the second Millenium Development Goal which emphasizes increased women’s literacy rates for the  
31 purpose of achieving broad health goals and higher household incomes and the third goal of promoting gender  
32 equality and women’s empowerment,  
33

34 1. *Recommends* the Executive Secretary of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to consider  
35 implementing the new microcredit program *Sisters Union for Progress Program*, in regional organizations,  
36 providing low interest loans for women in vulnerable situations to steer them towards financial stability based  
37 on the following principles:  
38

39 a. Promotion of gender equality and the elimination of social stigmas targeting women;

40 b. Improving living standards and recognizing the right to adequate housing;

41 c. Empowerment through education and financial independence;

42 d. Encouraging community solidarity;  
43  
44  
45  
46

47 2. *Recommends* the creation of standard operating procedures (SOP) and evaluation statements under the  
48 competence of UNCDF’s Women’s and Youth Empowerment division for the reason of further justifying the  
49 creation and continuation of the program, such that:  
50

51 a. SOP’s will be created by this body’s experts to ensure the facilitated flow of the new program;

52 b. Annual evaluations will be conducted to ensure there is progress within slums;  
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3. *Further recommends* the UNCDF to implement a microcredit program into regional organizations and the selection of the participants in which:
    - a. The loans will be provided on a case by case basis to groups of five to ten women;
    - b. A team composed of a minimum of seven independent experts from the different UN organizations such as: the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Health Organization, UN Women, the Human Rights Council, and local non-governmental organizations;
    - c. Will be appointed in order to evaluate the regional program’s efficiency;
  4. *Encourages* that, as part of the program, recipient groups of women implement upgrading projects into the slum’s community by:
    - a. Using the loans to implement projects that will enhance their own living standards and the ones of other slum dwellers in their community;
    - b. Participating in projects and activities of a local women’s council;
  5. *Also recommends* as part of the program, the creation of a local community council for entrepreneurship run by women for women which will:
    - a. Administer the loans in order to respond adequately to the needs of women;
    - b. Select women in need and send applications to the administrators of the *Sisters Union for Progress* into the regional organizations;
    - c. Alternate representatives of these councils at least once a year to maintain fairness and neutrality;
    - d. Have its establishment ensured by donations from the UNCDF and good-willing Member States;
  6. *Invites* regional organizations participating in the *Sisters Union for Progress* to create an educational program for all the recipients which would include:
    - a. Technical training on finance and business management;
    - b. Primary education to fight illiteracy;
    - c. Workshops on health, sexual education, sanitation, leadership, self-esteem and culture;
    - d. Sensitization programs for women, men and children’s rights including protection against stereotypes, violence, and abuse targeting women;
  7. *Encourages* the incorporation of women’s support groups into the local women councils with the aid of UN Women in order to:
    - a. Help women in situations of vulnerability to exchange their concerns about personal circumstances with other women in a safe space;
    - b. Create a community spirit in order to help women to strengthen their ability to build solid local projects;
  8. *Further recommends* that the budget for the present program should be based on voluntary contributions from participating members, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

**Code:** UNHABITAT/RES/1/4

**Committee:** United Nations Human Settlements Programme

**Topic:** Enhancing Living Standards in Slums Through Cooperation

1 *The United Nations Human Settlements Programme,*

2  
3 *Acknowledging Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stating that it is the right of everyone to*  
4 *own property,*

5  
6 *Reaffirming the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, seeking the active participation of all parties, to ensure*  
7 *legal security of tenure, protection from discrimination, and equal access to affordable, adequate housing for all,*

8  
9 *Building upon the achievements so far gained through the actions pertaining to the Millennium Development Goals,*  
10 *7C and 7D,*

11  
12 *Observing the annex of General Assembly Resolution 25/2, to promote cooperation among countries in order to*  
13 *popularize adequate low-cost and sustainable building, and recalling the observations documented by the United*  
14 *Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, RIO+20, in paragraph 134, that there is a need to provide*  
15 *affordable housing, infrastructure, and prioritizing slum upgrading and urban regeneration,*

16  
17 *Affirming Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stating that everyone is equal in the eyes of the*  
18 *law, regardless of gender, race, or sexuality,*

19  
20 *Recognizing Millennium Development Goal 3, which is to promote gender equality, and advocate equal*  
21 *opportunities for employment, housing, and education,*

22  
23 *Recalling that global cooperation is the base for creation of more effective policies; therefore that an accessible*  
24 *global knowledge platform is essential for enhancing living standards in slums,*

25  
26 *Keeping in mind the Best Practices Database of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT)*  
27 *which collects information on international programs that have produced tangible improvements to life in cities,*

28  
29 *Recognizing the importance of sustainability, partnerships, and impact as defined in the Best Practices Program*  
30 *during the conference of 1996 as well as the importance that the propagation of good policies through databases*  
31 *should be accompanied by monitoring of implementation,*

- 32  
33 1. *Emphasizes* the importance of a clear, legal status of residency in order to create organized, governed, and  
34 stable areas of residence for current slum dwellers, through highlighting the importance of a functioning  
35 governance that is mutually respected between local authorities and slum residents which will incorporate the  
36 slums into adjacent urban areas;  
37  
38 2. *Calls for* greater investment in governments to appropriately expand and integrate in order to ensure the fair  
39 allocation of housing, land, and investment, regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation,  
40 marital status, through expansion of the World Urban Campaign, and World Urban Forum in order to open  
41 greater dialogue and facilitate more proactive solutions;  
42  
43 3. *Recognizes* the growing problem of refugees due to environmental factors, and political refugees within and  
44 pertaining to slum development; and as such *highlights* the importance of supporting international consensus on  
45 the status of such refugees;  
46  
47 4. *Affirms* the need for a creation of local housing cooperatives for slum communities, in order to:  
48  
49 a. Allow for greater representation of slum areas within the organization, creation, and facilitation of the  
50 solutions put forward in this paper;  
51  
52 b. Create a potential investment in infrastructure, real-estate, and resources such as food and materials for  
53 building as a corporation;

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- c. Ensure equality within representation and cooperation, through gender mainstreaming;
5. *Endorses* the investment and development of sufficient living standards for slum dwellers and affirms the development of their well-being, as affirmed in Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*;
  6. *Emphasizes* the need for a response board to address the basic human right to access clean drinking water, through cooperation and investment, with the intention of recognizing the unsettling situation of global water scarcity; and situation-based responses to tackle the lack of safe drinking water;
  7. *Encourages* intensified international cooperation and research on tackling water-based issues, such as de-salinization, re-use of water, and lack of water;
  8. *Strongly encourages* national governments to further enhance and update the Urban Info Database System with effective solutions and strategies in order to summarize and detail successful national public policies that aim to promote the inclusion and alleviation of slums, and alleviate reduced living standards after natural disasters;
  9. *Decides* to assist all Member States in providing the information for the Urban Info Database System with the data presented by national governments;
  10. *Requests* the funding for the enhancement of the Urban Info Database System be included under the General Budget of the UN-HABITAT;
  11. *Highlights* the UN-HABITAT initiative, called ‘Help to Fight Limitations on Water’ (H2-FLOW), in order to immediately decrease the spread of waterborne illnesses such as diarrhea and cholera through cooperation between UN WATER and UN-HABITAT;
  12. *Calls for* the addressing of food security, through establishing national food production initiatives and systems through greater investment in locally sourced food providers in order to maintain low-cost, and environmentally suitable and appropriate crops to ensure efficiency and quality, through recommending national, independent productions of food in respect of seasonal and traditionally local crops;
  13. *Proposes* the development of greater healthcare through initially commending the work of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Doctors Without Borders, and calling to intensify cooperation between local authorities to facilitate such NGOs;
  14. *Looks to* support the increase of services tailored specifically to women, such as maternity wards, and supporting greater cooperation between local authorities and medical centers in order to respond effectively to issues such as sexual-abuse, female genital mutilation, and harassment;
  15. *Calls for* greater development of medical out-reach programs that address medical concerns in more rural and developing areas, which will ensure that medical care is provided equally with high-quality standards regardless of economic status, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality;
  16. *Proclaims* the importance of education for urban youth, specifically those previously habited in slum areas, in order to promote urban mobility, which will be attained through financial support and cooperation between educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and local authorities, in order to develop greater opportunities for education towards skilled labor and other outlets;
  17. *Urges* greater cooperation between local governments, businesses, and educational establishments, in-order to generate greater access to employment and apprenticeships;
  18. *Recommends* further education within communities of healthy sanitary measures, highlighting the example of Lifestraws in spreading safer potable water practices;

- 110 19. *Draws attention* to the need to support and facilitate further small local companies in order to create  
111 employment opportunities within rural and urban areas;  
112
- 113 20. *Invites* local governments to engage with the proposed response board, in-order to improve the management and  
114 effectiveness of rural to urban development, and thereby minimizing disruptive immigration;  
115
- 116 21. *Relies upon* key NGOs, which maintain an interest in environmental sustainability, to engage in the proposed  
117 response board in order to encourage and support its sustainable ventures in development, and further engaging  
118 wider specialized UN committees, such as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN WOMEN, the  
119 United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, and other specialized UN  
120 partners and agencies, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and  
121 Cultural Organization, and the United Nation’s Industrial Development Organization;  
122
- 123 22. *Affirms* the need for the response board to be organized, in order to allow for careful facilitation, monitoring,  
124 and measuring, initially formed by five representatives of UN-HABITAT, specific regional representatives from  
125 the five key development areas, and two rotating positions for NGOs and other affiliates in order to maintain  
126 recognition of the key targets of equality and sustainability;  
127
- 128 23. *Commends* the work of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP) and highlights the need to invest and  
129 build upon this program in order to broaden its focus from rural communities towards slum dwellings as a result  
130 of rapid urban development;  
131
- 132 24. *Proclaiming* the key target areas to be Africa, Mainland-Asia, Pacific Islands, South America, Central America,  
133 and the Middle-East, where the specific cities of Johannesburg, Beijing, Colombo, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City,  
134 and Islamabad will be addressed as example situations;  
135
- 136 25. *Affirms* the importance of annual reports to be presented to UN-HABITAT, combining local government  
137 research follow-up reports from within UN-HABITAT; alongside a report submitted by the proposed response  
138 board on the success of the program after five years with a possibility for extension, with publication in the  
139 “State of the World’s Cities Report”;  
140
- 141 26. *Highlights* that access to funding will be reached through multiple areas:  
142
- 143 a. Initially, through the Member States affiliated with UN-HABITAT that have earmarked funding in the  
144 past for projects specific to the state’s interests, including:  
145
- 146 i. Norway, and water projects;  
147 ii. Finland, and urban living condition projects;  
148 iii. Japan, and infrastructural development projects;  
149
- 150 b. Later through specific regional investments and projects to be funded by global organizations, which  
151 includes but are not limited to OPEC Fund For International Development (OFID), Asian  
152 Development Bank, and the Canadian International Development bank, and emphasizing the close  
153 relationship with the European Union;  
154
- 155 27. *Seeks* to expand already established funding mechanisms, such as the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF) and  
156 Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operation (ERSO);  
157
- 158 28. *Emphasizes* that any actions and programs initiated will be distinct to regional factors through the use of local  
159 representatives from housing cooperatives, local governments, and wider NGOs, emphasizing that the level of  
160 specification will be exemplary and will truly meet the needs of the communities being targeted.

**Code:** UNHABITAT/RES/1/5

**Committee:** United Nations Human Settlements Programme

**Topic:** Enhancing Living Standards in Slums through Cooperation

1 *The United Nations Human Settlements Programme,*  
 2  
 3 *Alarmed by the increasing number of slums around the world, where by 2050 the World Health Organization*  
 4 *(WHO) estimates that 70% of the world's population will live in cities,*  
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 6 *Reaffirming the importance of cooperation in enhancing living standards in slums,*  
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 8 *Reaffirming Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which stresses*  
 9 *“the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself [/herself] and his [/her] family,”*  
 10  
 11 *Appreciating the previous work already accomplished in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-*  
 12 *HABITAT) in the past such as the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program launched in 2008,*  
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 14 *Recognizing the importance of a comprehensive transition from the Millennium Development Goals into the*  
 15 *Sustainable Development Goals,*  
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 17 *Having examined the Report of the Secretary General A/59/2005, paragraph 27; which states our generation as the*  
 18 *only one with the means to reach the Millennium Development Goals,*  
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 20 *Anxious about the low level of interest of external organizations (local and international companies) in enhancing*  
 21 *slums and investing in sustainable projects,*  
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 23 *Noting with regret the lack of success of previous initiatives that attempt to alleviate the suffering in slums and*  
 24 *improve the quality of life within low-income urban communities,*  
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 26 *Stressing the importance of General Assembly Resolution 67/171 (2013), which acknowledges the fundamental right*  
 27 *to attain standards of development,*  
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 29 *Guided by the foundation of General Assembly Resolution 64/136 (2010), which notes the importance of*  
 30 *cooperation to attain social goals, such as the eradication of poverty,*  
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 32 *Seeking to continue the commendable progress of the Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 11, which seeks to*  
 33 *significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers,*  
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 35 *Recognizing that enhancing living standards in slums requires a paradigm shift of the slum dwellers from*  
 36 *beneficiaries to actors,*  
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 38 *Acknowledging the inevitable, often crucial presence and role of urban slums in developing countries and their*  
 39 *economies,*  
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 41 *Encouraging the facilitation of the cooperation of slum dwellers in the process of enhancing living standards in*  
 42 *slums through programs such as the joint effort of the International Urban Training Center (IUTC) between the*  
 43 *United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Republic of Korea, and the Water Relocation Program*  
 44 *located in Lesotho,*  
 45  
 46 *Noting that development programs need to be regionally specific in order to address the issues uniquely, and that*  
 47 *they are including vocational training courses targeting infrastructure, agriculture, public health, and water*  
 48 *sanitation,*  
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 50 *Fully aware that the majority of slum dwellers are suffering from malnutrition,*  
 51  
 52 *Realizing the importance of Article 13 (2 (a)) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural*  
 53 *Rights which declares “Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all,”*

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*Noting with deep concern that many children do not have free access to local primary school education,*

*Fully alarmed by the importance of gender inequality in human settlements development,*

*Confident that by reaching a consensus on empowering the role of women in regional slums and the development of human settlements, this body will be able to enhance gender equality and further economic and human development,*

*Reaffirming the human right to water stated in Articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,*

*Taking into account that microcredits within societies allow the creation of small industries of family businesses that promote the development of human settlements in slums,*

1. *Emphasizes* the need for a bottom up approach to improve perspective of locality in enhancing the living standards in slums based on the slum dwellers' own needs by:
  - a. Increasing support by mentors from more developed slum regions, who can use their prior experience to guide the process of slum upgrading through empowering and expanding the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP) in order to include not just African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) cities and countries, but all Member States facing similar challenges regarding slum settlements;
  - b. Endorsing strong political will supported by competent and dedicated institutions such as the Community Organization Development Institute (CODI) which provides innovative land tenure arrangements, affordable housing finance, organized local communities, and government support;
  - c. Promoting the establishment and strengthening of elected community councils within slum communities in order to empower their active participation and to adequately respond to their specific needs, in which UN-HABITAT would function as an organ of knowledge and important mediator between national governments' and city municipalities' interests and the voices of slum dwellers as it has been implemented in the Kingdom of Thailand's Baan Mankong Program and The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's Barrio Nuevo, Barrio Tricolor Program;
2. *Encourages* the process of citizen-driven citywide upgrading and strengthening of communities giving the slum residents a role in the development of their housing and building strong local communities on an international level such as the Kingdom of Thailand's Baan Mankong program;
3. *Emphasizes* the need to use local, including human, resources as a primary source of self-sufficiency, to assert a more efficient usage of local resources especially in the perspective of sustainable development, such as local building materials and workforce;
4. *Encourages* the construction of sustainable and affordable social housing for slum dwellers at a low cost for the construction companies by hiring local residents;
5. *Encourages* Member States to approach the issue of sanitation in a broader sense, in agreement with General Assembly Resolution 67/75 (2013) which encompasses:
  - a. The strategies of knowledge sharing through South-South cooperation as well as UN-HABITAT's expertise for technical support, to address the needs of the specific areas for the access to drinking water;
  - b. Utilizing the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Initiative to promote health and education, specifically in the context of preventing malnutrition and the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS;

- 110 c. The need for more efficient usage of local resources especially in the perspective of sustainable  
111 development, such as local building materials and workforce;  
112
- 113 d. The strategy of knowledge sharing through South-South cooperation as well as UN-HABITAT's  
114 expertise for technical support to address the needs of the specific area for the access to drinking  
115 water;  
116
- 117 6. *Recommends* the utilization of the UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Trust Fund for the development of a  
118 United Nations trust fund that encourages voluntary donations to fund and aid in the improvement of water  
119 sanitation in countries;  
120
- 121 7. *Establishing* the need to ensure emergency health services for the purpose of disease control by constructing  
122 health care centers in slum settlements, which will be funded by Member States and the Water and Sanitation  
123 Trust Fund;  
124
- 125 8. *Invites* civil society and all relevant international, regional and local organizations to share the experiences  
126 within localities so that context specific knowledge from slum dwellers is accessible for everyone, in order to  
127 facilitate communication;  
128
- 129 9. *Expressing* the need for surgical urbanism in order to upgrade informal human settlements for:  
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- 131 a. Areas considered to be at low risk of natural danger;  
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- 133 b. Areas considered safe from manmade danger;  
134
- 135 10. *Directs attention to* the Moroccan program Cities Without Slums (CWS), which encourages Member States and  
136 external investors to fund the creation and building of communities that are financially accessible for people  
137 living in poverty and to accommodate the expected increase in urban population;  
138
- 139 11. *Endorses* Lesotho's Water Relocation Programme which focuses on water sanitation through cost effective and  
140 environmentally efficient methods;  
141
- 142 12. *Fully supports* Spain's sustainable methods of rain water collection which are affordable and can be used as  
143 models in developing States and can serve as a means of water reserve systems;  
144
- 145 13. *Designates* a special emphasis on Millennium Development Goal 2, ensuring universal primary education,  
146 which is essential in directing the focus on empowerment of youth in slum settlements and in addressing the  
147 challenges facing them by:  
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- 149 a. Building local primary schools using vacant buildings that will be restored by voluntary slum  
150 dwellers having mechanical skills, ensuring small classes by recommending a maximum of 50  
151 students per class;  
152
- 153 b. Employing qualified educators with sufficient academic and pedagogical skills to increase the  
154 literacy rate and to tackle rising youth unemployment, and to increase the accessibility for slum  
155 dwellers to the formal labor market;  
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- 157 c. Ensuring educational institutions within a radius of 20 km from slums;  
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- 159 d. Implementing free forms of public transportation systems for students;  
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- 161 e. Urging public schools to open free accessible libraries to ensure access to academic material;  
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- 163 f. Establishing inclusive learning environments by mainstreaming gender into educational practices;  
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- 166 g. Implementing all approaches through cooperation with slum dwellers and by using their abilities  
167 and showing them how to use those, enabling the dwellers to further follow the approach of a  
168 continuous living improvement on their own in the future;  
169
- 170 14. *Encourages* the implementation of the Multi-Level Education Reform Initiative for Teaching (MERIT) which  
171 will:  
172
- 173 a. Orchestrate annual regional events where schools in slum areas can present the needs of their  
174 school to partners in the public, private and non-profit sectors who are willing to fund specific  
175 educational initiatives, such as The Gates Foundation, the United Nations Children’s Fund;  
176
- 177 b. Actively seek support from willing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Member States  
178 to ensure a presence at regional events to fund schools that are in need of repair;  
179
- 180 c. Assure that schools selected for funding are renovated in a manner that is most cost effective for  
181 the slum community that it resides in;  
182
- 183 d. Facilitate connections between contributors and slum schools through hosting presentations in  
184 which schools will display requests for improvements in infrastructure, teacher training and  
185 provide needs;  
186
- 187 15. *Stresses* the need for the creation of a Program to Optimize Women’s Empowerment in Regional Slums  
188 (POWERS), which will seek to enhance the role of women and family inhibition in human settlements by:  
189
- 190 a. Providing vocational training to women residing in regional slums and other human settlements;  
191
- 192 b. Equipping a network of career counselors to facilitate women’s inclusion in the economy;  
193
- 194 c. Providing language training in the countries official language to displaced persons;  
195
- 196 d. Allowing women from slums to participate in the improvement of human settlement developments  
197 by implementing their ideas in regional slums;  
198
- 199 16. *Supports* the creation of organizations, which at the core prevail on the promotion of entrepreneurship projects  
200 to enhance local businesses by:  
201
- 202 a. Reaching to the communities and entering slums with the purpose of recognizing the needs in  
203 which local business need improvement;  
204
- 205 b. Establishing lines of trust with the community members and encourages entrepreneurs to seek aid  
206 to accomplish their projects;  
207
- 208 c. Determine the needs of the projects and assist in the fulfillment of each project;  
209
- 210 17. *Encourages* Member States to base the establishment and processes of vocational programs targeting slum  
211 dwellers off of the IUTC’s selection criteria which outlines:  
212
- 213 a. The individuals who excel in the vocational programs being offered will be given the opportunity  
214 to continue with the programs as administrative figures;  
215
- 216 b. Connecting Member States participating in the vocational training program with affiliated NGOs  
217 already active within the states or within the region in a similar manner to UN-HABITAT’s Urban  
218 Youth Fund-led NGOs which will proceed as following:  
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220



- 221 i. Accept applications from slum dwellers, individuals, and pre-existing NGOs within the
- 222 state in which the training program is taking place and based upon an eligibility criterion;
- 223 ii. The applications accepted must express sufficient intent to enhance the living standards
- 224 in slums through cooperation;
- 225 iii. Proposed intentions should encompass and address all issues pertaining to the
- 226 enhancement of living standards with a primary focus on cooperation with slum dwellers;
- 227 iv. Applications will be processed by a joint group consisting of UN-HABITAT Member
- 228 States and participating slum dwellers;
- 229

230 18. *Strongly recommends* that the United Nations' Capital Development Fund increase the resources and expand the  
231 reach of its global program, The Local Finance Initiative, in order to enable sustainable regional growth and  
232 locally controlled microfinance institutions by allowing a substantive investment in the program, hence enabling  
233 locally governed microcredit organizations to expand in Africa and South America within the next 10 years.