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

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2014, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)” and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 9th, 30th and 38th meetings, on 14 October, 5 November and 11 December 2014. An account of the Committee’s discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records ([A/C.2/69/SR.9](#), 30 and 38). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 7 to 9 October (see [A/C.2/69/SR.2-6](#)).

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

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) ([A/69/298](#));

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda ([A/69/343](#));

(c) Letter dated 17 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the ministerial meeting on new partnerships for



productive capacity-building in least developed countries, held in Cotonou, Benin, from 28 to 31 July 2014 (A/69/392);

(d) Letter dated 8 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted by ministers of the least developed countries at their annual meeting, held in New York on 26 September 2014 (A/C.2/69/2).

4. At the 9th meeting, on 14 October, the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) made an introductory statement via videolink from Nairobi (see A/C.2/69/SR.9).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/69/L.15 and A/C.2/69/L.62

5. At the 30th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)” (A/C.2/69/L.15), which read:

“The General Assembly,

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

“Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

“Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/30 of 25 July 2014 on human settlements, adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2014,

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

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

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

“Reiterating its support for the World Urban Forum and recognizing that it is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Colombia and the city of Medellín for hosting the seventh session of the Forum from 5 to 11 April 2014, which was attended by more than 22,000 persons from more than 140 countries,

“Recalling paragraph 9 of resolution 68/239, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, for the Habitat III preparatory process,

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

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

“1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

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

“3. Recalls resolution 68/309, in which the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group would be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, and calls upon UN-Habitat to continue its contribution to the development of the post-2015 development agenda in order to provide expert advice on sustainable urbanization;

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

“5. Notes the holding of the Climate Summit in September 2014, and, given the importance of cities in mitigating and adapting to the consequences

of climate change, recognizes the key role of UN-Habitat in coordinating the support of cities and mayors through the Compact of Mayors and in initiating programmes that can bring rapid benefits to developing countries, and encourages member States to support these initiatives;

“6. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host the Conference, and decides that the Conference will be held in Quito from ____ to ____ 2016;

“7. *Decides* that the Conference shall be composed of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and six high-level round-table sessions to be held concurrently with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings, and that multi-stakeholder segments, side events and other events shall be held during the same hours as the plenary and the round tables and shall constitute an official part of the Conference;

“8. *Recalls* its decisions in resolution 67/216 on the objective and results of the Conference, and decides that the third session of the Preparatory Committee shall be held in ____, for a period of five days during the seventieth session of the General Assembly in the months of April and May 2016, to complete the preparatory work of the Conference;

“9. *Emphasizes* the need for effective coordination between the preparatory process for the Conference and the preparations for the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in order to promote coherence and to minimize duplication of effort, and invites the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to prepare the draft outcome document of the Conference based on inputs from broad regional and thematic consultations among all stakeholders and circulate it no later than 15 January 2016;

“10. *Encourages* Member States to participate at the highest possible political level in the Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself and to give appropriate consideration at the national, regional and local levels to a new urban agenda and commit to defining it, together with all relevant stakeholders;

“11. *Recalls* resolution 24/14 of 19 April 2013 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat on the inputs and support required for the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be met by regular budget and voluntary contributions, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to provide adequate funding for the biennium 2016-2017 for Habitat III, with a view to ensuring a solid resource base for the Conference;

“12. *Expresses concern* about the fact that there were no funds available for the participation of developing countries in the first session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III;

“13. *Urges* Member States and international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions and foundations, to continue to support the national, regional and global preparations for Habitat III through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in meetings of the

Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 13 of resolution 67/216;

“14. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself, and especially to ensure the availability of funds for the effective participation of developing countries in the second session of the Preparatory Committee;

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

“16. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the effective participation of local Governments and all other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the Conference itself and, inter alia, to expedite the preparations of Habitat III national reports and their submission to the Habitat III secretariat no later than December 2014;

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

“18. *Decides* that the major groups and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council must register in order to participate;

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

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

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

“22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General of the Conference to include the eighth session of the World Urban Forum in the Habitat III preparatory process in order to enhance active participation and effective contribution by all relevant stakeholders;

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

“24. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the development of the additional capacity required for the implementation of new priorities in the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019, especially cities and climate change, urban land and legislation, urban design, urban economy, renewable energy for cities and sustainable urban transport, as well as disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation;

“25. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

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

“27. *Recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat have increased considerably in their scope and complexity and that, in addition to its original mandate, the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to developing countries has increased in a number of new areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in its strategic plan for 2014-2019, especially cities and climate change, urban land and legislation, urban design, urban economy, renewable energy for cities and sustainable urban transport, as well as disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation;

“28. *Underlines* that UN-Habitat should be provided with secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective implementation of its strategic plan for 2014-2019, and requests the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the

Programme in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019;

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

“30. *Requests* Member States to promote the role of urbanization as a transformational force for achieving and advancing sustainable national development, as highlighted by the Economic and Social Council at its first integration segment;

“31. *Also requests* Member States to adopt an integrated approach to sustainable urbanization and human settlements that engages all key stakeholders, including local authorities, in order to produce innovative solutions to foster economic, environmental and social sustainability;

“32. *Calls upon* Member States to take into account the interlinkages among the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the formulation of policies, plans and programmes at the local, national and international levels;

“33. *Requests* Member States to implement, through appropriate urban planning and design policies, sustainable transport systems that focus on accessibility and on how to bring people and places together, including public transport and non-motorized modes of mobility;

“34. *Also requests* Member States to integrate equity into sustainable urbanization policies in order to address adequately the structural problems and challenges of poverty and inequality facing many cities;

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

“36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled ‘Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)’.”

6. At its 38th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)” (A/C.2/69/L.62), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.15.

7. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.
8. The facilitator of the draft resolution, the representative of Italy, orally corrected draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.62](#).
9. Also at its 38th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.62](#) (see para. 12).
10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Ecuador, the European Union, Japan, Canada and the United States of America (see [A/C.2/69/SR.38](#)).
11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.62](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.15](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

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

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

The General Assembly,

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

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

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

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

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

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

² See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

³ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁴ [A/68/970](#) and Corr.1.

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda⁷ and on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);⁸

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁶ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁷ See A/69/343.

⁸ A/69/298.

on its first session,⁹ and endorses its recommendation that the second session of the Preparatory Committee be held from 14 to 16 April 2015;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹ A/CONF.226/PC.1/6.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit

the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".