

60/7. Pacific Urban Agenda⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the call for a Pacific Urban Agenda made following the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Economic Ministers Meeting in 1999,

Also noting that, at its eighth session, held in Shanghai, China, on 20 and 21 April 2004, the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries unanimously endorsed the submission of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixtieth session,

Recognizing the Goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, relating to poverty, in particular, halving the number of poor by 2015, and making a significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020,

Also recognizing that Habitat II called for improvement in the lives of slum-dwellers and good urban management to prevent the urbanization of poverty,

Noting the significant increase in populations, in particular the urban populations in the Pacific island countries, the planning and management challenges that confront local and central governments and civil society and the need to build community cohesion and address community development and livelihood needs within poor urban communities,

Also noting the initiatives and case studies around the Pacific and tools to address good urban governance, participation, urban development and poverty concerns, particularly the concept of an “urban social charter”, in Papua New Guinea, the Samoan Planning and Urban Management Agency and the Urban Policy Action Plan in Fiji,

Recognizing the intensifying linkages between urban and rural areas and the need to give due attention to rural development and the improvement of conditions in rural areas, and noting that the rural-urban interface, which is changing through improvements in infrastructure development, should be recognized as a critical element in national economic development, and considered in the formulation of development strategies,

1. *Endorses* the Pacific Urban Agenda which was discussed and developed by officials at a workshop convened by ESCAP, the Urban Governance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Nadi, Fiji, from 1 to 4 December 2003;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to accord priority to the implementation of the Agenda;

3. *Calls upon* Pacific members and associate members to address the actions outlined in the Agenda, in particular in the areas of:

(a) Serviced shelter for the urban poor, by focusing on housing policy, land tenure and land management arrangements, including land zoning, integrated urban and rural housing development policy, self-help and services schemes, and by involving landowners to achieve greater recognition and involvement in land management, housing markets and building codes;

(b) The urban environment, including the provision of infrastructure, the integration of environmental and disaster management planning into urban planning and management, strengthening public health systems and addressing institutional and legislative frameworks;

(c) Urban security, including good governance at the local council level in particular, addressing urban poverty and urban employment needs, identifying vulnerable groups and addressing personal security issues by developing community policing and other approaches to personal security and developing a collaborative approach between law enforcement agencies and civil society to build community cohesion, strengthen partnerships among community groups and give a greater voice to community groups, civil society and social support agencies;

4. *Invites* partner agencies, including regional organizations, to provide technical and financial support, and members and associate members to cooperate and to coordinate the implementation of the Agenda, inter alia, through regional programmes;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support members and associate members in assessing progress in implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda, to convene a subregional workshop in 2006 for exchange of experience and capacity-building requirements and to report to the Commission at its sixty-second session on the outcome of this exercise.

⁸ See paragraphs 242 and 243 above.