



UN-HABITAT



United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains - Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos
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6 February 2003

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME, UN-HABITAT*

Nineteenth session (Nairobi, 5 – 9 May 2003)

NOTIFICATION BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dates, venue and participation

1. The nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, (UN-HABITAT) will be held from 5 to 9 May 2003. The meeting will take place at the headquarters of UN-HABITAT in Nairobi. A copy of the provisional agenda for the meeting, contained in document HSP/GC/19/1, is attached hereto and will be followed, in due course, by other documentation.
2. The opening ceremony of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council will take place at 10 a.m. on Monday, 5 May 2003. Representatives and invited guests are urged to ensure that they are seated by 9.45 a.m.
3. A list of the members of the Governing Council for the year 2003 is attached to the present notification as annex I. In this regard, the Executive Director wishes to point out that, pursuant to rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, a State which, though not a member of the Governing Council is a member of the United Nations or a member of a specialized agency may participate in the deliberations of the Governing Council in the capacity of observer.

Informal consultations

4. In order to facilitate the work of the Governing Council, arrangements have been made for informal consultations among and between the regional groups, on various matters before the Governing Council, in particular the election of officers, on Sunday, 4 May beginning at 11 a.m. The first issue of the *Journal*, to be issued on 4 May, will include information on the allocation of rooms for those meetings. Attention is drawn to the note on the geographical distribution of officers elected at previous sessions of the Governing Council, attached to the present notification as annex II.

* In its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. This session has been designated as the nineteenth instead of the first session of the Governing Council to signify the continuity and relationship between the Governing Council and the Commission on Human Settlements.

5. In addition, it is expected that various partners, notably local authorities, parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations, will also convene their own informal consultations, events and activities before and during the session. Detailed information regarding these consultations, events and activities will be communicated to all participants by the secretariat, as soon as they are finalized.

Key issues to be discussed at the session

6. Among the key issues to be considered by the Governing Council at its forthcoming session are:

(a) The work programme of UN-HABITAT for the biennium 2004-2005 and the proposed budget for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the same biennium;

(b) Follow-up to the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT;

(c) Two special themes, on:

(i) Urban development strategies and shelter strategies favouring the poor;

(ii) The rural dimension of sustainable urban development;

(d) Report of the Executive Director on the dialogues on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities;

(e) Cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and cooperation with other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, and with non-governmental organizations.

7. Accordingly, the Executive Director would like to stress the importance of full participation in the session by all States. Since a number of important decisions pertaining to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda are expected to be taken by the Governing Council, it is hoped that States will see the need for high-level, policy-making representation, as well as for substantive representation, at the session.

8. The Executive Director wishes also to bring to the attention of Governments the decision of the Governing Council in its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, in which the Governing Council invited Governments to include in their delegations to future sessions of the Governing Council representatives of local authorities and the relevant actors of civil society, particularly the private sector, non-governmental organizations and research organizations in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. Given the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul with regard to the roles of local authorities and members of civil society, the Executive Director wishes to stress the importance of this decision vis-à-vis the nineteenth session of the Governing Council.

9. The Executive Director would also like to emphasize that both UN-HABITAT and member States benefit substantially if States include in their delegations their Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT or other focal points in Nairobi with whom the secretariat deals on a continuous basis.

10. States are requested to inform the Executive Director of the composition of their delegations as soon as possible. In accordance with rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, the credentials of representatives should be submitted to the Executive Director, at the latest, before the end of the first meeting of the session.

Organizational arrangements for the session

11. Annexes III and IV to the present notification contain the Executive Director's suggestions concerning procedural and organizational aspects of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council and a suggested timetable, while annex V contains the list of the agenda items for the session, with the corresponding pre-session documents.

12. Comprehensive information for participants regarding such matters as accommodation, visas, medical requirements, etc., will be distributed shortly. Any inquiries regarding such matters or any other matters concerning the organizational aspects of the session should be directed to Mr. Joseph Mungai and should be addressed as follows:

Mr. Joseph Mungai
Secretary to the Governing Council
and Chief, External Relations and Inter-Agency Affairs
UN-HABITAT
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel No.: (254 2) 623133/623132/623131
Fax No.: (254 2) 624175/624250
Email: Joseph.Mungai @unhabitat.org

ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS

Meeting times

13. In principle, meetings will take place from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. The daily programme will be posted on notice boards at the United Nations Complex at Gigiri and will also appear in the *Journal*.

Meeting rooms

14. Details of rooms for the plenary and committee meetings will appear in the first issue of the *Journal* for the Governing Council, on 4 May.

Registration

15. The registration of participants for the session will commence at the United Nations Complex at Gigiri on Sunday, 4 May at 10 a.m. Participants are requested to hand in their credentials at the registration desk and to complete the form they will find at the desk. General information will also be available at the registration desk.

Distribution of statements

16. It will be helpful if texts of prepared speeches are made available to the secretariat in advance of delivery. A total of 17 copies of the text should be handed to the conference officer for the use of the secretariat. Delegations wishing to have texts of their representatives' statements generally distributed are requested to provide 250 copies to the conference officer.

Distribution of documents

17. Participants are requested to inform the secretariat of the number of documents required for the use of their delegations by completing the relevant form, which will be available at the document counters in the meeting rooms.

Exhibitions

18. Both member States and partners are invited to display, during the session, exhibits related to the themes and issues to be discussed at the session. Guidelines for the presentation of these exhibitions, which in the past have enriched the exchange of experience and knowledge during the Governing Council sessions, as well as information on space and other facilities available at the conference venue, will be communicated to all participants in the near future. Delegations which will be exhibiting at the session should, upon arrival in Nairobi, contact Mr. A. Kalsi, UN-HABITAT, P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; telephone: (254 2) 623124; fax: (254 2) 624060; email: Amrik.Kalsi@unhabitat.org

List of participants

19. An advance provisional list of participants based on replies received will be issued as soon as possible after the opening meeting, when registration has been completed.

Public information

20. All inquiries relating to public information should be addressed to Mr. S. Shankardass, UN-HABITAT, P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; telephone: (254 2) 623153; fax: (254 2) 624060; e-mail: Sharad.Shankardass@unhabitat.org.

Receptions

21. Information regarding official receptions will be given to delegations during the session. It would be appreciated if delegations intending to hold receptions would kindly provide the relevant details to the secretariat.

Annex I

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

Membership in 2003**
(58 members)

AFRICAN STATES (16)

Algeria (2003)
Benin (2003)
Burkina Faso (2006)
Burundi (2006)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (2006)
Egypt (2004)
Ethiopia (2004)
Guinea (2004)
Kenya (2003)
Madagascar (2004)
Malawi (2006)
Morocco (2003)
Sierra Leone (2006)
Senegal (2006)
Uganda (2003)
United Republic of Tanzania (2004)

ASIAN STATES (13)

Bangladesh (2004)
China (2004)
India (2003)
Indonesia (2006)
Iran, Islamic Republic of (2006)
Iraq (2004)
Japan (2006)
Jordan (2003)
Malaysia (2003)
Pakistan (2006)
Philippines (2003)
Sri Lanka (2003)
United Arab Emirates (2004)

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (10)

Argentina (2006)
Barbados (2003)
Brazil (2006)
Ecuador (2006)
Chile (2006)
Colombia (2003)
Haiti (2004)
Jamaica (2004)
Mexico (2003)
Trinidad and Tobago (2004)

EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES (6)

Croatia (2003)
Czech Republic (2003)
Poland (2006)
Republic of Moldova (2004)
Russian Federation (2006)
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2004)

WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES (13)

Austria (2004)
Belgium (2004)
France (2004)
Germany (2003)
Greece (2003)
Italy (2004)
Netherlands (2006)
Norway (2003)
Spain (2003)
Sweden (2004)
Turkey (2006)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2006)
United States of America (2006)

** Information received from the Economic and Social Council as at 12 June 2002.
() Membership expires on 31 December of the year indicated.

Annex II

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS ELECTED AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UN-HABITAT

Year	Session of the Governing Council	Chair	Vice-Chair	Rapporteur
1978	First	Western European and other States (Sweden)	African States (Malawi) Eastern European States (Poland) Latin American States (Mexico)	Asian States (Philippines)
1979	Second	African States (Kenya)	Asian States (Pakistan) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Eastern European States (Poland)
1980	Third	Latin American States (Mexico)	African States (Nigeria) Asian States (Iraq) Eastern European States (USSR)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)
1981	Fourth	Asian States (Philippines)	African States (Lesotho) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (Federal Republic of Germany)	Latin American States (Jamaica)
1982	Fifth	Eastern European States (USSR)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Latin American States (Jamaica) Western European and other States (Canada)	African States (Egypt)
1983	Sixth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Zambia) Eastern European and other States (Bulgaria) Latin American States (Argentina)	Asian States (Bangladesh)
1984	Seventh	African States (Gabon)	Asian States (India) Latin American States (Chile) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Eastern European States (USSR)
1985	Eighth	Latin American States (Jamaica)	African States (Tunisia) Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (Hungary)	Western European and other States (Greece)
1986	Ninth	Western European and other States (Turkey)	African States (Kenya) Asian States (Bangladesh) Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American States (Chile)
1987	Tenth	Eastern European States (Bulgaria)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Colombia) Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Kenya)

Year	Session of the Governing Council	Chair	Vice-Chair	Rapporteur
1988	Eleventh	Asian States (India)	African States (Botswana) Latin American States (Brazil) Western European and other States (United Kingdom)	Eastern European States (Poland)
1989	Twelfth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Gabon) Eastern European States (Hungary) Western European and other States (United States of America)	Asian States (Sri Lanka)
1991	Thirteenth	African States (Zimbabwe)	Asian States (Sri Lanka) Eastern European States (USSR) Latin American States (Brazil)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)
1993	Fourteenth	Western European and other States (Finland)	African States (Uganda) Asian States (Philippines) Eastern European States (Romania)	Latin American States (Chile)
1995	Fifteenth	Eastern European States (USSR)	Asian States (Indonesia) Latin American States (Venezuela) Western European and other States (United Kingdom)	African States (Cameroon)
1997	Sixteenth	Asian States (Bangladesh)	African States (Kenya) Latin American States (Mexico) Western European and other States (Norway)	Eastern European States (Romania)
1999	Seventeenth	Latin American States (Colombia)	African States (Senegal) Eastern European States (Bulgaria) Western European and other States (Sweden)	Asian States (Islamic Republic of Iran)
2001	Eighteenth	African States (Algeria)	Asian States (Bangladesh) Eastern European States (Russian Federation) Latin American States (Argentina)	Western European and other States (Turkey)

Under the principle of geographical rotation provided for in rule 12, paragraph 2, of the Governing Council's Rules of Procedure, the following regional groups should provide candidates for the offices in question for the nineteenth session of the Governing Council:

2003	Nineteenth	Western European and other States	African States Asian States Eastern European States	Latin American States
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Annex III

PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UN-HABITAT

Note by the Executive Director

1. The Governing Council may find it conducive to the efficient conduct of its work during the nineteenth session to adopt the specific organizational arrangements set out below.

A. Bureau

2. In accordance with rule 12 of the Governing Council's Rules of Procedure, the Bureau should consist of a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, elected with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution and rotation among the groups. Annex II to the present notification shows the geographical distribution of members of the Bureau at previous sessions of the Governing Council.

3. As provided for in rule 13 of the Governing Council's Rules of Procedure, one of the Vice-Chairs should be designated to chair the sessional committee of the whole referred to in paragraph 17 below. The remaining two Vice-Chairs would assist the Chair of the Governing Council directly in his or her duties in plenary and chair the ad hoc drafting committee referred to in paragraph 18 below.

B. Plenary

4. Following consultations with the Bureau of the Governing Council, it is recommended that the plenary divide its work into two segments: first, a high-level segment of ministers, heads of delegations and mayors, which would be held on the morning and afternoon of the first day and on the morning of the second day; and, second, dialogues with local authorities and other partners to be held on the afternoon of the second day and morning and afternoon of the third day.

C. The High-Level segment (first segment of the plenary)

5. It is suggested that the high-level segment of ministers, heads of delegations and mayors focus its discussions on the following two agenda items: Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT: progress report of the Executive Director (item 4 of the provisional agenda) and Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (item 5 of the provisional agenda).

6. Secondly, and with a view to accommodating the 60-80 delegations who normally attend the sessions of the Governing Council, it is recommended that during the high-level segment, each delegation be allowed a maximum of five minutes speaking time and that this limit be strictly adhered to. In this context, it should be noted that part of the morning session on the first day will be taken up by organizational matters.

7. In establishing the list of speakers for the high-level segment, precedence will be given to ministers and deputy ministers. These will be followed by other heads of government delegations and Habitat Agenda partners.

D. Dialogues with local authorities and other partners (second segment of the plenary)

8. In operative paragraph 2 of its resolution 16/12, the Governing Council decided "to provide, at future sessions of the [Governing Council], opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments; such dialogues may, as appropriate, serve as an input to the deliberations of the [Governing Council]".

9. In pursuance of the above decision, and with a view to increasing the participation and contribution of local authorities and other partners in the work of the Governing Council, arrangements have been made for dialogues with local authorities and other partners to be held in the plenary on the second and third day, as indicated in annex IV to the present notification. These dialogues will be based on the format followed by Committee II at the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, whereby representatives of partner groups will be given an opportunity to make a substantive presentation followed by a dialogue or discussion between Governments and partners on the presentations.

10. To this end, local authorities and other partners are encouraged to submit, in advance, a written summary of their presentation to the secretariat for distribution to all participants ahead of the meeting. They are also encouraged to include in their presentations specific issues of strategic importance to the implementation of the work programme of UN-HABITAT for the biennium 2004-2005 (document HSP/GC/19/8).

11. It is expected that the presentations to be made by representatives of local authorities and other partners will be the result of a preparatory process (consultations) by these groups, including non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector as well as professionals, researchers and labour unions. Arrangements will be made for local authorities and each group of partners to have, if they so wish, consultations in Nairobi immediately prior to the convening of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council, or at any other time and venue of their choice.

12. Detailed information on the organization of these dialogues is contained in annex VI to the present notification.

E. Summaries of the Chair

13. At the end of the high-level segment and the dialogues with local authorities and other partners, the Chair, drawing from the deliberations in the two plenary segments, will prepare a summary by the Chair, first of the main issues raised in the high-level segment, and secondly of the conclusions (or recommendations) made in the dialogues. These summaries will reflect the main thrust of the discussions and key positions stated during the two segments and will be submitted to plenary for endorsement.

14. Once endorsed by the Governing Council as an accurate reflection of what transpired in the high-level segment and in the dialogues with partners, the Chair's conclusions and recommendations will serve as guidelines for follow-up action by Governments, local authorities, other partners and the secretariat.

F. Sessional committee of the whole

15. Bearing in mind the organization of work in previous sessions of the Governing Council, and the above recommendations on the work of the plenary, the Governing Council may find it advisable to establish a sessional committee of the whole which would be given the responsibility for items 6 (a) and (b) and 7 to 11, with the remaining items being considered in the plenary.

G. Drafting committee

16. At the eighteenth session, on an informal basis, the Governing Council established an ad hoc, open-ended drafting committee under the chairmanship of one of the Vice-Chairs to pre-screen draft resolutions submitted by delegations with a view to merging, reconciling or clarifying them, as necessary, prior to consideration by the Governing Council. The Governing Council may wish to continue this practice, which was widely acknowledged to have enhanced the efficiency of its work.

H. Proposed timetable

17. For the ease of reference of participants, a proposed timetable for the nineteenth session of the Governing Council is provided in annex IV to the present notification.
18. A list of the agenda items for the nineteenth session of the Governing Council, with corresponding documents, is provided in annex V to the present notification.

Annex IV

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND TIMETABLE FOR THE NINETEENTH
SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UN-HABITAT**

Nairobi, 5 - 9 May 2003

		PLENARY	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	DRAFTING COMMITTEE
Monday, 5 May	a.m.	Opening of session Organizational matters: items 1, 2 and 3 High-level segment: items 4 and 5	-	-
	p.m.	High-level segment: items 4 and 5	Item 6	-
Tuesday, 6 May	a.m.	High-level segment: items 4 and 5	Items 6 and 8	Consultations on draft resolutions*
	p.m.	Dialogue I on Effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities		
Wednesday, 7 May	a.m.	Dialogue I on Effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities	Item 8	
	p.m.	Dialogue II on Financing slum upgrading	Items 8, 9 and 10	
Thursday, 8 May	a.m.		Items 10 ,7 and 11	Consultations on draft resolutions
	p.m.		Draft reports on items 6 (a), 6 (b),7, 8, 9,10 and 11	Consultations on draft resolutions
Friday, 9 May	a.m.	Draft reports of the Committee of the Whole. Draft reports of plenary on items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and of the two dialogues.		Consultations on draft resolutions
	p.m.	Draft resolutions from the Drafting Committee. Items 12, 13, 14 and 15.		

Note: * The Drafting Committee will start its work, formally, on Tuesday morning, 6 May. It may continue to work, informally, on Tuesday afternoon, and the whole of Wednesday. The meetings of Thursday, 8 May (morning and afternoon) and of Friday, 9 May (morning) will be provided with full interpretation facilities.

Annex V

LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS WITH CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTS

- Item 1 Election of officers.
- Item 2 Credentials.
- Item 3 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work. (HSP/GC/19/1; HSP/GC/19/1/Add.1; HSP/GC/19/INF/1; HSP/GC/19/INF/2)
- Item 4 Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT: Progress report of the Executive Director. (HSP/GC/19/2; HSP/GC/19/2/Add.1; HSP/GC/19/2/Add.2; HSP/GC/19/2/Add.3; HSP/GC/19/3; HSP/GC/19/3/Add.1; HSP/GC/19/3/Add.2; HSP/GC/19/INF/3; HSP/GC/19/INF/4; HSP/GC/19/INF/6)
- Item 5 Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. (HSP/GC/19/4)
- Item 6 Special themes:
- (a) Urban development strategies and shelter strategies favouring the poor; (HSP/GC/19/5)
 - (b) The rural dimension of sustainable urban development. (HSP/GC/19/6)
- Item 7 Report of the Executive Director on the dialogues on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities. (HSP/GC/19/7)
- Item 8 Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2004-2005 and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2004-2005. (HSP/GC/19/8; HSP/GC/19/9; HSP/GC/19/9/Add.1; HSP/GC/19/BD/1; HSP/GC/19/BD/2; HSP/GC/19/INF/5; HSP/GC/19/INF/7)
- Item 9 Proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2006-2009. (HSP/GC/19/10)
- Item 10 Coordination matters:
- (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme; (HSP/GC/19/11)
 - (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations; (HSP/GC/19/12)
 - (c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies brought to the attention of the Governing Council. (HSP/GC/19/13)
- Item 11 Themes for the twentieth and future sessions of the Governing Council. (HSP/GC/19/14)
- Item 12 Other matters. (HSP/GC/19/15)

- Item 13 Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twentieth session of the Governing Council. (HSP/GC/19/16, prepared in-session)
- Item 14 Adoption of the report of the session.
- Item 15 Closure of the session.

Annex VI

DIALOGUES WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER HABITAT AGENDA PARTNERS

Schedule

1. The dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners will be held in plenary on Tuesday, 6 May, in the afternoon session, and on Wednesday 7 May, in the morning and afternoon sessions.

Format

2. The dialogues will be based on the innovative model launched at the Habitat II Conference and successfully revived at the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Governing Council. Accordingly, the Executive Director and designated representatives of local authorities and other groups of Habitat Agenda partners will make short substantive presentations followed by a discussion between delegations and panellists.
3. The two dialogues will be conducted as open discussions directly related to the themes of the dialogues. The discussions will be inclusive and substantive, and their results should be action-oriented. Delegations wishing to do so can, however, provide the secretariat with written statements in 250 copies, which will be circulated and synthesized in the Chair's summary to be adopted by the Governing Council.

Expected results

4. The main purpose of the two dialogues is to present and discuss the planned contributions of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the UN-HABITAT work-programme and related outputs. Accordingly, panellists and delegates are invited to focus their interventions on both the conceptual and operational aspects of the two dialogue themes. Once adopted, the Chair's conclusions and the recommendations from the dialogues will serve as guidelines for follow-up action by Governments, local authorities, other partners and UN-HABITAT.

DIALOGUE I: EFFECTIVE DECENTRALIZATION AND THE STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

(Tuesday, 6 May 2003, afternoon and Wednesday, 7 May 2003, morning)

Setting

5. The Commission on Human Settlements, by its resolution 18/11, requested the Executive Director to intensify dialogue among Governments at all levels and Habitat partners on issues related to effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities, including principles and legal frameworks, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. It also called upon the Executive Director to make this dialogue as open-ended and inclusive as feasible. At the same time, by its resolution 18/10 on the role of local authorities, the Commission invited Habitat Agenda partners, with the support of the secretariat, to strengthen local authorities in their important role in implementing the Habitat Agenda through, inter alia, improved training, peer-to-peer learning, city-to-city transfers and international exchanges based on documented best practices, good policies and action plans.
6. Regarding “decentralization”, member States and other interested partners, including representatives of local government, participated in a dialogue session during the first World Urban Forum in April-May 2002, on the basis of an issue paper presented by the secretariat. In line with the conclusions of the dialogue at the World Urban Forum, which confirmed that countries could benefit from constructive guidelines on decentralization, but with the provision that the guidelines should take into account the diversity of member

States, the secretariat produced a representative set of national case studies from each of the regions. The case studies document the current legislative and institutional set up with regard to decentralization and the relationships among local, subregional and national levels of government. On the basis of these case studies, UN-HABITAT is submitting a report to the 19th session of the Governing Council under agenda item 7, containing recommendations on the dialogue series on decentralization, the possible scope and content of international guidelines on decentralization, the strengthening of local authorities and the time frame to achieve these goals.

7. Regarding strengthening of local authorities, a series of half-day sessions was held during the first World Urban Forum. The dialogues succeeded in preparing a common concept and mutually supportive implementation initiatives for the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the shared understanding that local capacity development is a key prerequisite for sustainable urbanization and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Among these, a most significant initiative for strengthening local authorities is the Partnership for Local Capacity Development joining some 20 Habitat Agenda partners under the leadership of the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC) and UN-HABITAT in a systematic effort to promote cohesion and collective efficiency in the international support available to the development of local capacities.

8. The dialogue on effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities will provide an opportunity first to illustrate the regional diversities and commonalties with regard to the various legislative frameworks and practices of decentralization, prior to the deliberations by the Governing Council on the policy recommendations and operational elements of the case studies report referred to in paragraph 2 above; and secondly to review ongoing efforts for strengthening local authorities and discuss future direction. The first part of the dialogue (Tuesday, 6 May 2003) will address decentralization. During this part, regional experts and Habitat Partners, including the contributors to the secretariat's inter-regional survey, will make introductory presentations as a basis for an interactive dialogue on the diversity of national and regional experience in decentralization. The second part of the dialogue (Wednesday, 7 May 2003) will address the strengthening of local authorities. During this part, representatives of international associations of local authorities will brief the session on concepts and progress in the Partnership for Local Capacity Development as a background for a discussion on the way forward. Both of these open discussions will serve as a prologue to the subsequent and more formal deliberations on agenda item 7 by the Committee of the Whole, and it will allow member States to gauge the opinions of local authorities and other partners on the subject.

Background documentation

- (a) Resolution 18/11 - Intensifying dialogue on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities within the framework of implementing the Habitat Agenda;
- (b) Resolution 18/10 - The role of local authorities;
- (c) HSP/GC/19/7 - Report of the Executive Director on the dialogues on effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities;
- (d) HSP/GC/19/2 – Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Progress report of the Executive Director;
- (e) HSP/GC/19/2/Add.2 – Report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- (f) Background paper on decentralization and global perspectives: Central themes and country experiences;
- (g) Background paper on the Partnership for Local Capacity Development (update to be available in April 2003).

Panellists

Part one: Regional experts on decentralization and contributors to the secretariat's survey;

Part two: Representatives of international associations of local authorities.

DIALOGUE II: FINANCING SLUM UPGRADING

(Wednesday, 7 May 2003, afternoon)

Setting

9. Member States have adopted and are actively seeking to implement the United Nations millennium development goals, together with the commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development and in the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Collectively, these provide the priorities for development cooperation for the first two decades of the new millennium.

10. Target 11 of the millennium development goals is the resolution made by Heads of State and Government to have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. UN-HABITAT is the focal point within the United Nations system for the implementation of this target.

11. UN-HABITAT convened, in October 2002, an international meeting of professionals to develop indicators that measure improvement in the lives of slum dwellers. Indicators identified at the meeting were access to safe water, access to sanitation, security of tenure, quality of housing structure, and housing density.

12. One of the key challenges in meeting target 11 of the millennium development goals is the provision of adequate financial resources. Dialogue II will look at the sums required to meet target 11, and at ways to increase the scale and stability of funding for slum upgrading. It will highlight sustainable approaches to financing, including mobilization of domestic resources (national, municipal and private, including individual savings) and support for income generation activities.

Background documentation

(a) Report of the Secretary-General: Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/56/326);

(b) Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

(c) Urban development strategies and shelter strategies favouring the poor (HSP/GC/19/5); Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Progress report of the Executive Director (HSP/GC/19/2);

(d) Cities Without Slums Action Plan (Cities Alliance).

Panelists

Representatives of international, domestic and private sector financial institutions;

Representatives of external support agencies;

Representatives of local government, civil society organizations, slum-dwellers and professionals.
