

19th Session of the Governing Council, 5 - 9 May 2003, Nairobi, Kenya

**8th meeting
9 May 2003**

19/5. Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments and recommendations of the Habitat Agenda on the twin goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and recalling also the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and more particularly its paragraph 46,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration and more particularly its paragraph 19, in which heads of State and Government committed themselves "by 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the Cities Without Slums initiative", as reconfirmed in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recalling paragraph 13 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which recognizes that success in meeting the development and poverty eradication objectives of the Declaration depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country,

Noting with appreciation the initial activities undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) with relevant United Nations agencies, Member States, the Cities Alliance and the Millennium Project of the United Nations, and emphasizing the importance of a strategic approach for implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers,

Noting with concern the lack of sufficient financial resources and affordable land for housing development in many areas,

Taking note of the recommendations of the World Urban Forum at its first session, particularly those related to the dialogues on cities without slums and on the Global Campaign for [Secure Tenure](#),¹⁴ ,

Taking note also of the importance of the report on the thirty-second session of the Statistical Commission, which endorsed the quinquennial cycle for data collection and dissemination and encouraged UN-HABITAT to convene, in consultation with the United Nations Statistics Division, an expert group meeting to evaluate existing methodologies and data-collection and dissemination [instruments](#)¹⁵ ,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, which in its paragraph 66 reconfirms inter alia the role of UN-HABITAT in advocating, promoting, monitoring and assessing progress made in implementing the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in all countries,

Taking into account paragraph 1 of part VI of General Assembly resolution 55/194 of 20 December 2000, which encourages Member States and Habitat Agenda partners to provide support for the preparation of the *Global Report on Human Settlements and the State of the World's Cities* report on a biennial basis so as to raise awareness of human settlements and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world,

Acknowledging also that significantly improving the lives of slum dwellers requires detailed knowledge, at a disaggregated level, of the extent of such poverty,

Endorsing and supporting the key role of UN-HABITAT in implementing and monitoring the goal on improving the lives of slum dwellers and also the goal on sustainable access to safe drinking water and waste management, as agreed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to work to fulfil the goal of improving the lives of slum dwellers and to present a strategy paper thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its approval;

2. Requests the Executive Director to explore all available options to increase the financial resources which could support the achievement of that goal taking into account the Monterrey Consensus of the [International Conference on Financing for Development](#)¹⁶

3. Invites Governments and local authorities, as appropriate, to allocate the necessary financial, human and technical resources to meet the human-settlements-related goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to develop and implement national and local action plans for slum upgrading;

4. Encourages Governments to create conditions conducive to transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of cities and other human settlements as an important contribution towards achieving the goal of improving the lives of slum dwellers;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to further develop and strengthen UN-HABITAT collaboration with the Cities Alliance, all relevant stakeholders and other United Nations agencies, and including the Bretton Woods institutions, other international financing institutions and bilateral development agencies, in order to achieve this goal;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to assist Governments, at their request, in developing effective policy guidelines and action plans to this effect, in particular through a sustained implementation of the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance;

7. Requests the Executive Director, in line with the recommendations of the World Urban Forum at its first session, to establish an advisory group to monitor and identify, and, if so requested, to promote alternatives to unlawful evictions;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to strengthen the Global Urban Observatory as a learning centre able to respond to the demand-based expansion of local urban observatories, with partnerships from research centres of excellence, to enable the Global Urban Observatory to continue to assist countries and cities in collecting, analysing and using urban indicators;

9. Encourages the Executive Director to continue developing partnerships with national statistical offices, the United Nations Statistical Division and regional United Nations economic commissions to incorporate the slum and the secure tenure indices into national population censuses and other surveys and to encourage the release of data thus collected into the public domain;

10. Invites Member States and Habitat Agenda partners in a position to do so to provide financial and substantive support to UN-HABITAT to enable it to further develop methodologies for data collection and dissemination and to evaluate concepts and sources of city and intra-city statistics;

11. Decides that a continuing focus of the twentieth and future sessions of the Governing Council should be the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers;

12. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to its next session.