

Preparations for the Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly 5 to 9 June 2023

RESOLUTION ON THEMES

Resolution 20/21: Organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 5/15 of 7 May 1982, in which it decided to designate the subjects of the special themes of its sessions two years in advance,

Also recalling its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, in which it decided to provide, at future sessions of the Council, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments,

Further recalling its resolution 19/5 of 9 May 2003, in which it decided that a continuing focus of its twentieth and future sessions should be the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹ on improving the lives of slum-dwellers,

Noting that the World Urban Forum now provides an opportunity for extensive dialogue among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners,

Recognizing the importance during sessions of the Governing Council of a focused, interactive high-level segment on priority policy issues,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on improving preparations for the Governing Council, which are contained in the appendix to the present resolution;

2. *Decides* that the special themes referred to in resolution 5/15 shall no longer be chosen two years in advance, but shall instead be selected by the Bureau of the Governing Council at least six months before the start of each session of the Governing Council, on the basis of advice from the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into account the outcome of the sessions of the World Urban Forum and the requirement for a continuing focus on the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers;

3. *Also decides* that the high-level segment and the dialogues referred to in its resolution 16/12 should normally focus on those special themes and should constitute the substantive debate on the special themes;

4. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to recommend to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, through the Bureau of the Governing Council, further proposals for improving the structure and organizational arrangements of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council including, in particular, the high-level segment;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare a background paper for use by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in complying with the request set forth in the preceding paragraph.

8 April 2005

¹ General Assembly resolution 55/2.