



United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
First session
Nairobi, 27–31 May 2019

Resolution adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 31 May 2019

1/3. Enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

Recalling the New Urban Agenda,¹ which urges the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to “continue its work to develop its normative knowledge and provide capacity development and tools to national, subnational and local governments in designing, planning and managing sustainable urban development”,² and recalling their potential contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 11,

Recalling also UN-Habitat Governing Council resolutions 5/16, on training and information, 7/14, on a systematic and comprehensive approach to training for human settlements, and 22/8, on guidelines on access to basic services for all, which emphasized the role of training and capacity-building, policy advice and the promotion of horizontal learning in achieving sustainable urban development, including through the UN-Habitat best practices database and the exchange of knowledge between cities and countries,

Recalling further that research and capacity development are among the focus areas of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 and the related programme of work and budget,

Recalling the Bogotá Statement “Towards Effective and Inclusive Development Partnerships”⁴ (2010), which recognized capacity-building as one of the distinctive features of South-South cooperation, and recalling the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005),⁵

Recalling also its commitment to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁶ in particular chapter VI, section C, on capacity-building,

¹ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

² *Ibid.*, para. 129.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁴ Available at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/45497536.pdf>.

⁵ Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/34428351.pdf>.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Recalling further the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements⁷ and the commitments made regarding capacity-building and institutional development, in particular those set out in paragraphs 177 to 193 of the report of the Conference,

Recognizing the fundamental role of training, education and capacity-building in strengthening the institutional and human resource capacities of national and local authorities and other stakeholders, in addition to fostering multiple forms of knowledge transfer, know-how creation, and the use of innovative methods such as territorial and spatial planning, for the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming the pivotal role of UN-Habitat in the development, dissemination and application of tools and knowledge to support the capacity development of national and local authorities and training institutions, and in its partnerships with tertiary education institutions and other stakeholders,

Recognizing that the improvement of coordination and coherence within the UN-Habitat secretariat in delivering capacity-building can further enhance its ability to promote transformative impact that contributes to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to draft a strategy to enable the Urban Research and Capacity Development Branch, within the scope of available resources, to coordinate and lead capacity-building as a cross-cutting function, and further requests that the draft strategy be presented to the Executive Board for deliberation at its first resumed session;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop, in accordance with the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 and within the scope of available resources, a strengthened and integrated capacity-building approach to support the achievement of sustainable urban development, with inclusive consultations that take into account the needs of Member States;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the scope of available resources, to support Member States in their efforts to mobilize human and financial resources to develop and implement capacity-building programmes;

4. *Reiterates* its invitation to all Member States to support the mobilization of human and financial resources through voluntary contributions to sustain the UN-Habitat training and capacity-building strategy.

⁷ 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 II.