

Resolution 21/9: Women's land and property rights and access to finance

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,¹ which entered into force on 3 September 1981,

Recalling also the linkage between the Habitat Agenda,² the Beijing Platform for Action³ and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁴ which recognize the importance of land, housing and property to women's livelihoods,

Recalling further its resolution 19/16 of 9 May 2003 on women's roles and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading, especially its request to Governments to promote credit schemes for shelter and income-generating activities that are affordable to poor women, in particular those affected by HIV/AIDS,

Bearing in mind paragraph 20 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and paragraph 58 (e) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome⁵ by which the world's leaders resolved to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways of combating poverty, and of ensuring equal access of women to productive assets and resources, including land, credit and technology,

Mindful of the important role of partnerships in the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme⁶ and the contribution of the Huairou Commission, Slum Dwellers International and other women partners in mobilizing grassroots women's organizations to participate actively in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and in gender mainstreaming,

Stressing the need for concerted action at all levels to attain the internationally agreed development goals and targets on water and sanitation, slum upgrading and slum prevention,

Emphasizing that women form the majority of the urban poor, especially those living in slums,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in implementing the Habitat Agenda, to promote access to finance by low-income women, either as individuals, in cooperatives or in other associated forms, as a major contribution to the overall implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to urban poverty reduction;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in implementing the Habitat Agenda, to develop a gender action plan with gender-specific performance indicators to ensure concrete, measurable gains for the realization of gender equality and women's empowerment;

3. *Urges* Governments and their development partners to support women's land access trusts, housing cooperatives and other women's organizations, including grassroots organizations, working on land, housing and housing finance to realize women's access to land, housing, housing finance, and security of tenure;

¹ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex, 18 December 1979.

² *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.

³ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 55/2, 8 September 2000.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 60/1, 16 September 2005.

⁶ See Governing Council resolution 21/2, para. 1.

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution in her progress report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

*7th plenary meeting
20 April 2007*