

Resolution 22/8: Guidelines on access to basic services for all

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolutions 20/5 of 8 April 2005, on access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements, and 21/4 of 20 April 2007, on guiding principles on access to basic services for all, and cognizant of the report of the Executive Director on guidelines on access to basic services for all,¹ which contains in its annex the draft international guidelines on access to basic services for all that were prepared in consultation with other United Nations bodies and concerned stakeholders and in line with the guidelines on decentralization and the guiding principles on access to basic services for all,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001 adopting the Declaration of Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, by which the Assembly resolved to promote access to safe drinking water for all and to facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport, through transparent and accountable management of public services as well as partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations for the delivery of those services,

Acknowledging the coherence and complementarity between the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the international guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities adopted by its resolution 21/3 of 20 April 2007,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, in which the Assembly recognized the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework,

Emphasizing the need to promote environmental sustainability in the delivery of basic services for all, including sustainable urban planning, risk reduction, early warning systems and appropriate response to natural disasters,

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the leading role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the contribution of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other agencies and partners in the consultative process that led to the development of the draft guidelines on access to basic services for all;
2. *Approves* the guidelines on access to basic services for all included in the annex to the report of the Executive Director² as a valuable instrument in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and therefore in contributing to human dignity, quality of life, sustainable livelihoods and the enjoyment of human sustenance;
3. *Invites* Governments to place the issue of access to basic services for all at the centre of their national development policies, with a special emphasis on filling the gaps for the poor and marginalized groups, and to strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks for facilitating partnerships at all levels, in line with the aforementioned guidelines;
4. *Requests* key international financial institutions, development agencies and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, within its approved medium-term strategic and institutional plan and biennial work programme, to develop training instruments and assist interested Governments to adapt the guidelines to their national contexts, where appropriate, and further to develop tools and indicators as part of its support for the implementation of the guidelines, in a manner coordinated with the continuing work on the implementation of the guidelines on decentralization;
5. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to develop innovative partnerships with other United Nations bodies, development banks, Governments, local authorities and their associations, including United Cities and Local Governments, private service providers and other Habitat Agenda partners, to support the ownership and application of the guidelines to local and national circumstances;
6. *Recommends* that the guidelines on basic services, together with the guidelines on decentralization, be considered by the United Nations Economic and Social Council with a view to promoting their use, as appropriate, among United Nations bodies as a complement to existing

¹ HSP/GC/22/2/Add.6.

² HSP/GC/22/2/Add.6 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

international guidelines for specific services or in developing particular guidelines for services that are not covered by such instruments;

7. *Encourages* Governments and partners to provide institutional, technical and financial support for the future work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with all levels of government on access to basic services for all, especially for promoting the implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all in complementarity with the support provided for the implementation of the guidelines on decentralization;

8. *Encourages* Governments, according to their circumstances, to promote sustainable criteria in planning and construction while taking into account access to clean water and safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, urban services, sustainable waste management and sustainable transport;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director, in close cooperation with member States and other relevant stakeholders, to prepare an assessment of the implementation and complementarity between the guidelines on decentralization and the guidelines on access to basic services and to report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

*7th plenary meeting
3 April 2009*