

**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme**

HSP/GC/23/CRP.4

12 April 2011

Original: English

Twenty-third session

Nairobi, 11–15 April 2011

Agenda item 9

Other matters

**Draft resolution submitted by Kenya on sustainable urban
development: the right and access to the city reflected in quality
urban public spaces**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a draft resolution submitted by Kenya. It has not been formally edited.

Annex

Sustainable urban development: The right and access to the city reflected in quality urban public spaces

The Governing Council,

Reaffirming the World Charter on the Right to the City in its resolve that cities should constitute an environment of full realization of all human rights and fundamental liberties, assuring the dignity and collective well-being of all persons, in conditions of equality, equity, and justice; and that all persons have the right to find in the city the necessary conditions for their political, economic, cultural, social, and ecological realization, assuming the duty of solidarity;

Taking into consideration that the lack of public spaces that are green, safe and socially inclusive, is one of the central issues for sustainable urban development;

Noting the outcome of the World Urban Forum V in Rio and in particular the e-debate on taking forward the dialogue on the Right to the City and Bridging the Urban Divide, and building on the outcome of the UNESCO and UN-HABITAT project on Urban Policies and the Right to the City;

Noting that UN HABITAT within the MTSIP process highlights the importance of planning in the creation of sustainable cities.

Recognizing that UN-HABITAT's most recent *State of the World Cities Report* on the Right to the City must be carried forward through the agency's work in concrete ways;

Further noting the work of numerous civil society movements worldwide, engaged in place-making; now engaging UN-HABITAT in advancing the promotion of place-making, public spaces and quality of urban life.

1. *Takes Note of* UN-HABITAT's priorities and vision on sustainable urban development policies with emphasis on beginning with the street; as a point of communication, commerce, contact and improved access to the city; and that city planning for the effective use of streets requires participatory planning, inclusive of citizens' needs in all their diversity, including age, gender, race and ethnicity.

2. *Emphasizes that* Governments should formulate and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote socially just and environmentally balanced uses of urban public space, in conditions of security and gender equity that foster urban resilience.

3. *Emphasizes that* public spaces, such as streets of the city, should be used to prioritize social, cultural, and environmental convergences; and that all citizens have the right to public spaces, in a socially just landscape and within resilient environmental conditions.

4. *Calls Upon Governments*

(a) To implement urban environmental planning, regulation, and management that guarantees equilibrium between urban development and protection of natural, historic, architectural, cultural and artistic heritage; that impedes segregation and territorial exclusion; that prioritizes social production of public space, and that guarantees the social function of the city and property. For that purpose, cities should adopt measures that foster an integrated and equitable city with quality urban public spaces;

(b) To integrate the theme of urban safety for all citizens as an attribute of the public space, including gender and age considerations in the statutes regulating the use of public space.

5. *Calling upon the Executive Director* within UN-HABITAT MTSIP to advance the agenda on place making and public spaces in a concrete way that will consolidate local and international approaches to creating inclusive cities, enhance UN-Habitat Partners' and Local Authorities' knowledge of place-making, public spaces and quality of urban life and facilitate exchange and cooperation among partners working in this field.

6. *Calling upon the Executive Director* in collaboration with the Habitat Agenda partners, to carry out a systematic assessment of the role that place-making can play in addressing the challenges of our rapidly urbanizing world and disseminating widely its results and to create a plan for expanding its applications internationally.

7. *Calling upon the Executive Director* to assist in coordinating active UN-HABITAT partners in disseminating knowledge into ongoing sustainable urban development processes at all governmental levels.

8. *Further requesting* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-fourth session, on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.
