



Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session
Agenda item 3(d)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

70/12. Strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,¹ the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which adopted the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda,² and the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the special session of the General Assembly, which met in 2001 to review and appraise the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,³

Reaffirming the critical importance of the decision to hold in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III)⁴ in order to secure renewed commitment for housing and sustainable urban development, to assess accomplishments to date, enhance poverty eradication, identify and address emerging challenges, and to agree on a focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document calling for a “new urban agenda”,⁵

Recalling outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, and noting that the outcome document “The future we want”⁶ contained a call for the international community to support actions for the realization of sustainable cities and human settlements as integral to commitments to sustainable development,

Recognizing the role of ESCAP in contributing to the regional preparations for Habitat III pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/207

¹ See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

³ A/S-25/7/Rev.1.

⁴ A/66/281 and A/66/282.

⁵ General Assembly resolutions 66/207 and 67/216.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

and 67/216, Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/27 on human settlements and resolution 24/14 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and encouraging the use of regional commissions and regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, and also the relevant regional intergovernmental meetings, to provide inputs to the preparatory process for Habitat III, taking into account that the process should be carried out in the most inclusive, efficient and effective manner,

Welcoming with appreciation the offer by the Government of Indonesia to host a high-level regional preparatory meeting in 2015, as an intergovernmental process which will be utilized to provide inputs to Habitat III,

Taking note of the recommendation by the Committee on Environment and Development, contained in the report on its third session,⁷ that the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, scheduled to be held in 2015 by ESCAP as part of its regular programme of work, be used as a regional preparatory meeting for Habitat III through the introduction of an intergovernmental segment,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/239 through which it was decided to designate 31 October of every year, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day, to promote cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and challenges in urbanization and contribute to sustainable urban development around the world,

Acknowledging the important contribution of ESCAP in promoting regional cooperation on inclusive and sustainable urbanization and urban poverty reduction in the Asia-Pacific region through its normative and analytical work, in providing a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogues and in facilitating South-South cooperation, North-South cooperation and triangular cooperation on housing and urban issues,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other concerned bodies and agencies:

(a) To continue to analyse conditions and trends regarding human settlements and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific across all three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as identify strategies to address persistent and emerging challenges;

(b) To continue facilitating regional understanding and action on issues critical to housing and sustainable urban development through, among other modalities, sharing of good practices and lessons learned, and the convening of expert group meetings and regional multi-stakeholder dialogues, including the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other concerned bodies and agencies, to organize the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum back-to-back with the high-level regional preparatory meeting in Indonesia in 2015 in order to provide substantive input to its deliberations, and to support the Government of Indonesia in the regional preparations for Habitat III, in particular through organizing the high-level regional preparatory meeting in 2015 with the participation of member States as an intergovernmental process and the involvement of other stakeholders;

⁷ E/ESCAP/70/13.

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate substantive inputs inclusive of the diverse urban experiences and needs of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as encourage broad, high-level participation from across the region in Habitat III and its preparatory processes;

4. *Invites* members States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, and other multi-stakeholders, as appropriate, to participate actively in both the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum and the high-level regional preparatory meeting to be held in Indonesia in 2015;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*
