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United Nations Habitat Assembly of the  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme

First session

Nairobi, 27–31 May 2019

Agenda item 16

Other matters

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**Draft resolution 1/4: Achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements**

*The United Nations Habitat Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>2</sup> and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>3</sup> and the outcome of their review conferences,

*Recalling* the revised strategic plan for the period 2014–2019<sup>4</sup> and the work programme and budget for the biennium 2018–2019<sup>5</sup> of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), both of which contain clear mandates to strengthen the integration of gender perspectives into all its work,

*Recalling also* all relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to the implementation of resolution 2012/24 of the Economic and Social Council on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

*Recognizing* that persistent gender-related inequality, marginalization and systematic discrimination against women in human settlements, as evidenced by their unequal access to, inter alia, land, property, other economic and financial assets, secure tenure, decent housing, transport and mobility, essential infrastructure, political participation, high-quality education, health care and buildings resilient to climate and disaster risks, hamper their full enjoyment of human rights and are an impediment to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>6</sup> and the New Urban Agenda,<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, no. 20378.

<sup>3</sup> *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, annexes I and II.

<sup>4</sup> HSP/GC/26/6/Add.3.

<sup>5</sup> HSP/GC/26/6.

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

*Acknowledging* that, in view of the urgent need to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in private and public urban spaces, there is a need to create an enabling environment through sound public policies, effective urban planning, including the design of inclusive public urban spaces, investment in public infrastructure and affirmative action,

*Taking note* of the work undertaken by UN-Habitat to implement gender equality and empower women in its policies, programmes and projects, and encouraging UN-Habitat to accelerate those efforts,

*Reaffirming* the importance of cooperation between UN-Habitat, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other United Nations entities on gender equality work, promoting sustainable urban development and addressing differentiated needs, notably of women and girls,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, with the support of Member States, to strengthen and support UN-Habitat in executing a twofold gender strategy in the following areas: (a) mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment into the normative work and operational programmes of UN-Habitat in all key focus areas; and (b) setting up policies and programmes to support efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment within the scope of existing resources;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to utilize available resources for gender mainstreaming within the programmes and activities of UN-Habitat, as included in its strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;<sup>8</sup>

3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to engage and work meaningfully with other United Nations entities, civil-society organizations, women leaders in local authorities, the private sector, the media and grassroots women's and community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations as well as experts, building on their leadership in and knowledge of sustainable development while observing gender equality and addressing the differentiated needs, notably of women and girls, in order to improve the efficiency and impact of programmes and activities;

4. *Urges* the Executive Director to support and make optimal use of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues as well as other relevant networks to facilitate the mainstreaming of gender within UN-Habitat and the effective integration of the gender equality perspective into its policies and programmes aimed at implementing its strategic plan and programme of work, and in targeting improved gender parity in the Organization;

5. *Recommends* that the Executive Director allocate adequate existing resources for the development and implementation of an updated version for the period 2020–2025 of the revised policy and plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women in urban development and human settlements, as an adjunct to the strategic plan for the same period, within the scope of existing resources, and raise additional voluntary resources wherever possible;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director, through the Executive Board, to submit a report to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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<sup>8</sup> HSP/HA/1/7.