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**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015**

**Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations  
Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)  
and strengthening of the United Nations Human  
Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

## **Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

**Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.61**

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance  
with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**

1. At its 40th meeting, on 6 December 2013, the Second Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.61](#) without a vote. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document [A/C.2/68/L.53](#).

### **I. Requests contained in the draft resolution**

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 4 and 9 of draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.61](#), entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”, the General Assembly would:

(a) Affirm resolution 24/14 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat on the inputs and support required for the preparatory process of the United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), to be met by regular budget and voluntary contributions, encourage the Secretary-General to



seek voluntary support for this purpose and call upon Member States to provide such support;

(b) Request the Secretary-General of the conference to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, for the Habitat III preparatory process.

## **II. Relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015**

3. The activities to be carried out relate to programme 12, Human settlements, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 ([A/67/6/Rev.1](#)), and section 15, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 ([A/68/6 \(Sect. 15\)](#) and Corr.1).

## **III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented**

4. The General Assembly, in paragraph 14 of its resolution [67/216](#), requested the Secretary-General of the conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session as to how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner and to proceed accordingly.

5. At its twenty-fourth session, in April 2013, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat considered the report of the Executive-Director, the Secretary-General of the conference, on the conference (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.3) and, on the basis of a proposal contained therein, adopted resolution [24/14](#), in which it outlined the preparatory process for Habitat III.

6. The principal tasks to be carried out in the biennium 2014-2015 are to: (a) establish the secretariat of Habitat III; (b) start the preparatory process at the country and regional levels through the national habitat committees and disseminate guidelines for the preparation of national reports; and (c) hold two meetings of the preparatory committee in New York and Nairobi in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

7. In order to effectively implement the requests contained in the draft resolution, regular budget resources would be required to reinforce the staffing of the secretariat of Habitat III. This would enable UN-Habitat to respond in a timely and adequate manner to the demands of the preparatory process. General temporary assistance resources for one Deputy Secretary-General of the conference (D-2), two Administrative Assistants (1 General Service (Other level) and (1 Local level)) and one Programme Assistant (Local level) would be necessary.

8. The Deputy Secretary-General of the conference, in Nairobi, would assist the Secretary-General of the conference in the substantive high-level consultations held with Member States and in raising political support for the preparation, participation and outcome of Habitat III. The two Local level positions in Nairobi would assist the secretariat of Habitat III in various administrative tasks, including the archiving

of files, the preparation of documentation and other related tasks. The General Service (Other level) position in New York would provide additional administrative assistance in the New York office of UN-Habitat, which will be heavily involved in the preparatory process, especially in connection with the first meeting of the preparatory committee, to be held in New York in 2014.

9. In addition, the secretariat of Habitat III would comprise two Senior Programme Officers (P-5) and three Programme Officers (P-3), who are expected to be funded through the trust fund established in accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution [67/216](#) to support the preparations for the conference.

10. In its resolution [24/14](#), the Governing Council: (a) invited Member States to prepare, before the first meeting of the preparatory committee for Habitat III, national reports that consider the implementation of the Habitat II agenda and other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets, as well as new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as a basis for the formulation of a new urban agenda, in line with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution [67/216](#); and (b) requested the Secretary-General of the conference, using the expertise of UN-Habitat and of the United Nations system as a whole and, specifically, in cooperation with the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to prepare regional reports drawing on the national reports as well as on available knowledge, resources and data as inputs to the first and second meetings of the preparatory committee and to prepare a global report, drawing on the national and regional reports, and also on available knowledge, resources and data, as an input to and support for the preparatory process of the Conference.

11. In addition, in the same resolution, the Secretary-General of the conference was requested to use planned regional and global meetings, such as the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, sessions of the regional commissions and regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, and also of other relevant regional intergovernmental meetings, for the development of the UN-Habitat input to the preparatory process.

12. The activities outlined above require specialized expertise that is not available in the Secretariat and for which building in-house capacity is not considered to be cost-effective. The provision of adequate expertise that is currently unavailable in UN-Habitat would require: (a) one consultant for 8 work-months to collect data and create indicators required for the national, regional and global assessments; (b) one consultant for 12 work-months to manage the assessment project and design relevant assessment tools, methodologies and related outputs; (c) six consultants for 4 work-months each to prepare six regional assessment reports; and (d) one consultant for 12 work-months to prepare a global assessment report.

13. In addition, the participation of experts in the area of human settlements in the planned meetings will be required in order to bring analytical depth to the discussion of the empirical results of the assessments, synthesized at the regional and global levels. Those results will include evidence-based trends in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as well as new urbanization issues, challenges and opportunities identified for inclusion in a new urban agenda.

14. In accordance with paragraphs 9 (b) and (c) of General Assembly resolution [67/216](#), the first meeting of the preparatory committee will be held in New York in

2014, during the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, and the second meeting will be held in Nairobi in 2015, taking full advantage of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

15. At the first meeting, the preparatory committee would undertake a comprehensive assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda and other relevant internationally agreed development goals and targets and identify key elements for inclusion in the draft outcome document of the conference. At the second meeting, the preparatory committee would start negotiations on the first draft of a document containing, inter alia, a new urban agenda.

#### **IV. Modifications required in the programme of work and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015**

16. In order to take into account the provisions of the draft resolution, the outputs programmed under section B, Executive direction and management, and subprogramme 7, Research and capacity development, of section 15, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/68/6 (Sect. 15) and Corr.1), would be modified as follows:

- In paragraph 15.55, under “(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)”, the following new subparagraph would be added:
  - “(vi) Preparatory committee for the United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III):
    - “a. Substantive servicing of meetings (2): first meeting of the preparatory committee, in 2014, and second meeting of the preparatory committee, in 2015;
    - “b. Parliamentary documentation: pre-session documents (11); in-session documents (7); reports of the preparatory committee (2)”.
- In paragraph 15.91, under “(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget/extrabudgetary)”, the following outputs would be added:
  - “(i) Substantive servicing of meetings: sessions of pre-planned regional intergovernmental meetings devoted to discussing progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as part of preparatory activities for Habitat III (3); virtual regional meetings (Internet-based) to discuss progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as part of the preparatory activities for Habitat III (2); meeting of representatives of Member States and Habitat Agenda partners on the preliminary results of national assessments for Habitat III at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum (1); global virtual conference (Internet-based) to discuss the results of the regional and global assessment reports for Habitat III (1);
  - “(ii) Parliamentary documentation: regional reports focused on Habitat III assessing the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and identifying issues for inclusion in a new urban agenda (6)”.

## **V. Estimated resource requirements**

### **A. Conference-servicing: section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and conference management**

17. In accordance with paragraphs 9 (b) and (c) of General Assembly resolution [67/216](#), provision has been made in the amount of \$1,063,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for conference services for: the first meeting of the preparatory committee to be held in New York in 2014, including interpretation for six meetings and the translation of 12 documents into the six official languages and report-writing services; and the second meeting of the preparatory committee, to be held in Nairobi in 2015, including interpretation for 10 meetings, translation of 8 documents into the six official languages and report-writing services.

### **B. Non-conference-servicing: section 15, Human settlements**

18. It is estimated that non-recurrent resources in the amount of \$2,073,700 would be required under section 15, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 to provide for:

(a) General temporary assistance as follows: 24 work-months (D-2), 24 work-months (General Service (Other level)) and 48 work-months (Local level) at an estimated cost of \$821,100;

(b) The services of consultants equivalent to 56 work-months to provide technical and substantive support in connection with the preparation of national, regional and global reports at an estimated cost of \$624,000;

(c) The convening of four expert group meetings in which experts serving in their personal capacity at the regional and global levels, as appropriate, organized by the Secretary-General of the conference, would provide collective advice to the first and second meetings of the preparatory committee, taking full advantage of planned meetings of the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, at an estimated cost of \$315,000;

(d) Expenses related to the travel of the Habitat III secretariat and other United Nations staff for the purpose of participating in the meetings of the preparatory committee in New York and in Nairobi and in other ad hoc preparatory meetings organized by the Secretary-General of the conference, at an estimated cost of \$117,500;

(e) Charges for the rental and maintenance of premises in Nairobi for the Habitat III secretariat at an estimated cost of \$133,600;

(f) Office automation equipment, such as desktop and laptop computers, printers and communication equipment at an estimated cost of \$35,000;

(g) Supplies, including photocopier paper, stationery and data-processing supplies, at an estimated cost of \$15,000;

(h) Costs related to miscellaneous expenses and operating services estimated at \$12,500.

The following table provides details of those requirements for the biennium 2014-2015:

### **Section 15, Human settlements**

(United States dollars)

	2014	2015	Total
General temporary assistance			
(1 D-2, 1 General Service (Other level) and 2 Local level)	403 500	417 600	821 100
Consultants	542 000	82 000	624 000
Experts	150 000	165 000	315 000
Travel of staff	62 500	55 000	117 500
General operating expenses	74 300	71 800	146 100
Supplies and materials	7 500	7 500	15 000
Furniture and equipment	20 000	15 000	35 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 259 800</b>	<b>813 900</b>	<b>2 073 700</b>

19. In connection with the general temporary assistance positions proposed under section 15, there would be additional requirements in the amount of \$133,800 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

## **VI. Potential for absorption**

20. No provision for the estimated requirements has been made under section 15, Human settlements, and it is not anticipated that those requirements could be met from the resources proposed for the biennium 2014-2015. The adoption by the General Assembly of draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.61](#) would therefore entail additional requirements of \$2,073,700 under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

## **VII. Contingency fund**

21. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions [41/213](#) and [42/211](#), a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditure were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing

activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

## **VIII. Summary**

22. Should draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.61](#) be adopted by the General Assembly, additional non-recurrent resources in the amount of \$2,073,700 would be required under section 15, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require the appropriation of an additional amount of \$2,073,700 for the biennium 2014-2015, to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

23. An additional amount of \$133,800 would be also required under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

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