



UN-HABITAT



United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains - Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos
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12 November 2004

Dear Habitat Agenda Partner,

At its nineteenth session, which was held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 May 2003, the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT adopted resolution 19/8 entitled "Arrangements regarding the accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners". A copy of this resolution is attached herewith for your attention.

With respect to accreditation procedures for the twentieth session of the Governing Council which will be held from 4 – 8 April 2005, applicable to Habitat Agenda partners, other than local authorities, please note the following:

- a) A Habitat Agenda partner, other than local authorities, and which was already accredited to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the Special Session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, accreditation will be reconfirmed upon request;
- b) Non-Governmental Organizations, including other Habitat Agenda partners, in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), will be automatically granted accreditation upon request; and
- c) If an organization is a Habitat Agenda partner, but not representing local authorities, which does not meet any of the above criteria, it may be invited by the Executive Director and accredited on an *ad hoc* basis to the twentieth session. In this case, the organization is required to make a request to my office before **31 December 2004**, as the Executive Director is expected to submit a final list of organizations to the appropriate body of the Governing Council for approval, 10 weeks in advance of the session.

With regard to the participation of Habitat Agenda partners, other than local authorities, in sessions of the Governing Council, including the next upcoming twentieth session, please note the following Rules 65 and 66 of the new Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council:

Other Habitat Agenda partners

Rule 65

1. *Duly accredited representatives of other Habitat Agenda partners may sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs.*
2. *Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.*

With regard to NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, please note the following:

You are encouraged to seek accreditation at an early date in accordance with the above provisions.

Non-governmental organizations

Rule 66

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic Social Council may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs. A non-governmental organization attending a meeting of the Governing Council may, upon the invitation of the President and with the approval of the Governing Council, make oral statements on matters within the scope of its activities.

Should you require further information or wish to make a request for accreditation in accordance with the above procedures, please contact the undersigned at the following email address: anantha.krishnan@unhabitat.org

UN-HABITAT recognizes that active engagement of Habitat Agenda partners is crucial to the successful implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals related to it.

Yours sincerely,



S. Ananthakrishnan
Chief, Partners and Youth Section

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19/8. Arrangements regarding the accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners

The Governing Council.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, which transformed, with effect from 1 January 2002, the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and requested the Governing Council to propose its rules of procedure for consideration by the General Assembly,

Recalling also and in particular paragraph 3 of part I A of that resolution, whereby the General Assembly decided that the practices regarding the participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the Governing Council would be according to the relevant rules of the Economic and Social Council with regard to participation and accreditation, that the established practices of the Commission on Human Settlements would be utilized, and that such practices would in no way create a precedent for other governing bodies of the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 50/100 of 20 December 1995 which, inter alia, endorsed the rules of procedure for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey from 3 to 14 June 1996, and particularly Rules 62 and 63, on the participation of designated representatives of local authorities and accredited non-governmental organizations in the deliberations of Habitat II,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/194 of 20 December 2000 and in particular its part III, entitled "Arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session", namely, the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, Error! Bookmark not defined.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, entitled "Institutional arrangements for international cooperation in the field of human settlements", and in particular its part VIII, "Cooperation with organizations outside the United Nations system",

Recalling further its resolution 19/1 of 9 May 2003 entitled "Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme", and in particular rules 64, 65 and 66ⁱ regarding the role of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations of the Governing Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Bearing in mind paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Settlements to review its working methods in order to involve in its work the representatives of local authorities or international associations of local authorities, as appropriate, and the relevant actors of civil society, taking into account the rules and procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements and the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996,

1. **Decides** to reconfirm, on request, the accreditation to the Governing Council of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners that were accredited to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. **Decides further** that accreditation of other local authorities referred to in rule 64 of the rules of procedure shall be approved by the Governing Council on the recommendation of the Executive Director in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council;

3. **Decides** also that accreditation shall be automatically granted, on request, to non-governmental organizations, including other Habitat Agenda partners, which are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

4. **Decides further** that other Habitat Agenda partners referred to in rule 65 of the rules of procedure that were not accredited according to operative paragraphs 1 and 3 above may be invited by the Executive Director and accredited on an ad hoc basis to a session of the Governing Council: the Executive Director shall submit the list of such partners to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for approval on a no-objection basis by final decision of the Committee, and to Governments not represented on the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their consideration, 10 weeks in advance of the Governing Council session;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director to disseminate widely all relevant information on procedures for accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners.
