

ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH
DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/69/L.62, 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)"

1. This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.62, 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:

(i) *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), and decides that the Conference will be held in Quito during the week of 17 October 2016;

(ii) *Recalls* its decisions in resolution 67/216 on the objective and results of the Conference, while remaining mindful of the need to carry out the Conference and preparatory process in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner for a successful conference, and decides that:

a) the Conference shall be composed of eight plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and six high-level round-table sessions to be held concurrently with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings;

b) parallel meetings and other events, including multi-stakeholder segments, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and the round tables, the multi-stakeholder segments will constitute an official part of the Conference, and interpretation for such meetings will be provided on an as-available basis;

c) special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to housing and sustainable urban development, will be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders for the benefit of the participants in the Conference;

d) the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Indonesia during the month of July of 2016, and shall consist of six plenary meetings on the basis of two meetings a day;

3. Pursuant to operative paragraph 8(d) of the draft resolution, the third session of the Preparatory Committee would be held in Indonesia in July 2016 for three days. It is anticipated that the third session would require a total of six meetings with interpretation in all six languages. The six meetings would constitute an addition to the workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in 2016, which would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$63,600.

4. Furthermore, it is envisaged that the third session of the Preparatory Committee would require twenty-two pre-session documents (250,000 words), three in-session documents (25,500 words), and two post-session documents (20,000 words) to be issued in all six official languages in 2016. In addition, reports would be written for all six meetings and issued in all six official languages in 2016. This would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management which would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$1,783,000 for documentation services in 2016.

5. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 7 and 8(a) of the draft resolution, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) would be held in Quito, Ecuador during the week of 17 October 2016. It is anticipated that the Conference would require a total of eight plenary meetings and six high-level round-table sessions with interpretation in all six languages. The fourteen meetings would constitute an addition to the workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in 2016, which would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$200,700.

6. Furthermore, it is envisaged that Habitat III would require seventeen pre-session documents (140,000 words), seven

in-session documents (38,500 words), and three post-session documents (28,500 words) to be issued in all six official languages in 2016. In addition, reports would be written for all fourteen meetings and issued in all six official languages in 2016. This would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management which would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$1,303,100 for documentation services in 2016.

7. Pursuant to operative paragraph 8(b) of the draft resolution, parallel meetings and other events, including multi-stakeholder segments, would be provided with interpretation services on an "as-available basis".

8. In order to implement the requests contained in the draft resolution, \$1,378,100 would be needed under Section 15, Human Settlements, for the following: (i) the continuation of the staffing of the Secretariat of Habitat III established in the biennium 2014-2015 for the period leading up to the Conference and an additional three months after the conference until January 2017 (\$438,800); (ii) the services of consultants in order to provide substantive inputs to the third session of the preparatory committee and the conference (\$206,000); (iii) the participation of experts in the area of human settlements in the planned regional and thematic meetings to bring analytical depth to the discussion of the empirical results of the assessments, synthesized at the regional and global levels (\$421,500); (iv) travel of the Secretariat of Habitat III to various expert group meetings, for several political and substantive discussions, and to other ad-hoc meetings organized by the Secretary-General of the Conference (\$180,100); (v) the general operating expenses, including rental and maintenance of premises and communication costs (\$124,500) and (vi) supplies, including photocopier paper, stationary and data processing supplies (\$7,200).

9. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) would need to be supported through national and regional level promotional activities, including short videos and press kits; press and media coverage; and webcast streaming and storage. This would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$45,500 under Section 28, Public Information, for public information activities prior to and during the conference in 2016.

10. In accordance with paragraph 4 of the General Assembly resolution 40/243, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the third session of the Preparatory Committee should be held in Nairobi, the established headquarters of UN-Habitat. However, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the same resolution, United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a

session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly and indirectly involved. Accordingly, the offer of the Government of Ecuador to host the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) requires that the Government of Ecuador reimburse to the United Nations the actual additional costs directly and indirectly incurred as a result of the change in venue of the Conference from Nairobi to Quito. Similarly, the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the third session of the Preparatory Committee requires that the Government of Indonesia reimburse to the United Nations the actual additional costs directly and indirectly incurred as a result of the change in venue of the third session of preparatory committee from Nairobi to a location in Indonesia.

11. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.62, the total additional requirements of \$4,774,000 would be required in the biennium 2016-2017, including: (i) \$3,350,400 under Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; (ii) \$1,378,100 under Section 15, Human Settlements; and (iii) \$45,500 under Section 28, Public Information. These amounts would be included in the respective sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

12. In connection with the general temporary assistance positions under section 15, Human settlements, there would be also additional requirements in the amount of \$72,600 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 2016-2017.