

## **Resolution 20/4: Least developed countries<sup>1</sup>**

The Governing Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>2</sup> in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 59/244 of 23 December 2004 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Welcoming the endorsement by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,

Noting with concern the rapid rate of urbanization in the developing countries, which include 50 least developed countries, of which 34 are in Africa alone, and the fact that the process is accompanied by the growth of slums, poverty, insecurity, risk and vulnerability and frequent natural and human-made disasters,

Noting the work which the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has carried out in post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction in affected least developed countries such as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Haiti, Liberia, Maldives, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia and Timor-Leste,

1. Requests the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue to give special attention to the least developed countries in its normative and operational activities;
2. Invites Governments of least developed countries to prepare, adopt and begin to implement national development strategies to meet the internationally agreed development goals;
3. Invites Governments of developed countries and Habitat Agenda<sup>3</sup> partners in a position to do so to provide increased and sustained development assistance to least developed countries which

---

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Twentieth session, (4-8 April 2005) (A/60/8).*

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3 – 14 June 1996 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.*

are preparing and implementing the aforementioned national development strategies;

4. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in activities of the Programme, as called for in General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001;

5. Calls upon the Executive Director to contribute, in accordance with her mandate, to the effective implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010.

*Adopted on 08 April 2005*