

19/17. Least developed countriesⁱ

The Governing Council.

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

Noting the rapid rate of urbanization in developing countries, which include 49 least developed countries, and the fact that the process is accompanied by the growth of slums, poverty, rising insecurity, risk, vulnerability and frequent disasters,

Appreciating the good work the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) has done through post-war, post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction in affected least developed countries such as Afghanistan, Eritrea, Haiti and Liberia,

Observing with concern that the least developed countries continue to face daunting challenges in the management of human settlements and alleviation of urban poverty,

1. **Requests** UN-HABITAT to continue to give special attention to least developed countries in its programme activities;
2. **Emphasizes** the importance of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001 -2010;
3. **Invites** the Executive Director to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action in UN-HABITAT activities as well as in its intergovernmental processes, as called for in United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and resolution 57/276 of 20 December 2002;
4. **Calls** on the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to cooperate fully with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to ensure the effective implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

ⁱ *Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nineteenth session, 5-9 May 2003 (A/58/8).*

ⁱⁱ A/CONF.191/12.

ⁱⁱⁱ A/CONF.191/11.