National Report on Housing for the Conference on Housing

Habitat III

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Indicators
Acronyms list

AADL: National Agency for Housing Improvement and Development
ADS: Social Development Agency
APC: People's Municipal Assemblies
ANGEM: National Micro-credit Management Agency
ANRH: National Agency for Water Resources
ANSEJ: Youth Employment Support National Agency
BMPJ: Mobile Brigades of the Judiciary Police
CPS: Solidarity Proximity Cells
CNERIB: National Centre for Studies and Integrated Researches of Building
UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CNES: National Economic and Social Council
CRAAG: National Centre for Research in Astronomy, Astrophysics and Geophysics
CNAC: National Unemployment Insurance Fund
CID: Contract of Integration for Graduates
CIP: Contract for Professional Integration
CFI: Contract of Training-Insertion
CTA: assisted work contract
CFE: Contract of Employment Training
CID: Contract of Integration for Graduates (CID)
CIP: Contract for Professional Integration (CIP)
CTA: CTA: assisted work contract (CTA)
CGS: National Centre for Applied Earthquake Engineering
DGNS: General Directorate of National Security
DTR: Regulatory Technical Documents
DAIP: Professional Employability Support Scheme
ENPI: National Company for Real Estate Development
EnR: Renewable Energies
FCCL: Local Authorities Common Fund
FNSEJ: National Fund for Support Youth Employment
FONAL: National Housing Fund
GNC: Fuel Natural Gas
GPL-C: GPL Fuel
IFU: Tax Lump Unique
LPL: Public Rental Housing
LPA: Assisted Promotional Housing
OPAP: Organizations Chartered Private Placement
ONM: National Office of Meteorology
NVO: National Urban Observatory
OMD: Millennium Development Goals
ONS: National Office of Statistics
PAT: Territorial Action Programs
PAW: Management Plans of Provinces (Wilayas)
PSCS: Complementary Program for Growth Support
PDAU: Master Plan of Urban Planning and Development
PPDRI: Integrated Rural Development Programs
PME-PMI: Small and Medium Enterprise, Small and Medium Industry
POS: Land Use Plan (POS)
PSRE: Program for the Support of Economic Revival
PROGDEM: National Program of Municipal Solid Waste Management
P / APC: P/ People's Municipal Assembly
RE: Economic Census (RE)
RGPH: General Population and Housing Census
SNAT 2030: National Scheme of Land Planning 2030
SDS: Sectoral Master Plans
SEVEN: Plans of Territorial Programming Spaces
SDAAM: Master Plan for the Development of the Metropolitan Area
SRH: Long-term Mortgage Refinancing Company
SNMG: National Guaranteed Minimum Wage
TAP: Tax on Professional Activity
TEOM: Household waste collection tax
TOL: Housing Occupancy Rate (TOL)
TVA: Value Added Tax
Introduction

The urban population in the world has seen, from the 50s, a rapid growth to cross the historical threshold of 50% in 2007. In Algeria, one of the notable events which emerges from the General Population and Housing Census of 2008 (RGPH) is the rapid growth of the urban population representing 66.3% of the population while it was 31% in 1966, moreover, the growth of urban areas, the number increased from 95 units in 1966 to 751 in 2008.

Actually, after being a country with a large predominance of rural population during the early years of independence (69%), Algeria has gradually reduced its urban deficit to an estimated urbanization rate of currently 70%.

Access to decent housing has always been one of the government priorities. This will has illustrated by considerable investments agreed in the housing sector, especially during the last decade. During the period of 2008-2013, about 02 million housing units have been constructed, which has improved the Housing Occupancy Rate (TOL), which increased from 5.51 inhabitants /housing in 2000 to 4.89 inhabitants /housing in 2010 and 4.6 inhabitants /housing in 2013.

As well as the construction of housing to remedy the existing deficit and face the request, the new urban policy aims to give the city and urbanization, the role and the quantitative and qualitative dimension that must be carried in the development and the operation of territory and at different scales.

This policy is based on the guidelines specified in the three roadmaps both national and international, with strategic character, including:

- National Scheme of Land Planning 2030 (SNAT), adopted in 2010, which is a territorial development instrument within an optic of sustainable development and economic social equity. This Scheme aims to organize urban development according to strategic directions ensuring sustainability, rebalancing, attractiveness, competitiveness and territorial equity.

- Law No.06-06 related to the city orientation, which specified general principles of urban policy that are coordination and consultation, proximity management, human development, sustainable development, good governance, information, culture, preservation and social equity.

- Millennium Development Goals (OMD) which preserve the right of every citizen to acquire decent housing, including fringe population and penniless (non-employees, divorced women and penniless, abandoned parents, orphans, etc.).

However, in spite of progress achieved, we realize that Algerian city accumulates delays related to its urbanization process, conducted in emergency to meet the growing needs of population in housing.
To remedy this situation, National Scheme of Land Planning has defined 8 programs, devoted to the city and urban development that must be implemented in order to face challenges of urban planning. Which are:

- Urban renewal and urban policy
- Hierarchical and articulated urban system
- Promotion and modernization of large cities: Algiers, Oran, Constantine, Annaba
- Attractiveness Centers (PA) and Integrated Industrial Development Zones (ZIDI)
- Major risks
- Sustainability of Resources
- Cultural patrimony
- Braking littoralisation and balancing coast

At the same time, Algeria increases efforts to mitigate and reduces in the long-term major disparities in its resources and population distribution revealed by latest preliminary results of RGHP 2008.

After elaborating these territorial development policies, Algeria endeavors to ensure follow-up and implementation of territorial sustainable development basing, on the one hand, on a participative approach based on dialogue between and with all actors and, on the other hand, on incentive in all instruments recommended by the law on Sectoral Master Plans (SDS) and territorial Plans.

Algeria aims, through all these actions, to deal effectively with country urban problems, through coordination between all stakeholders. It aims, also, to consolidate the whole efforts made by different sectors that contribute to set conditions for a qualitative management of urban spaces. This qualitative policy includes:

- Establishment of urban policy, through legal and regulatory framework related to management and promotion of the city.
- Upgrading and promotion of cities, in order to improve the quality citizens' life conditions.
- Creation of new cities and major integrated urban centers.

A. Urban Demographic Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

1. Managing Rapid Urbanization

Algeria’s resident population reached 38.7 million inhabitants on 1 January 2014, while it was estimated at 34.080.030 in the latest General Population and Housing Census (RGHP) in 2008, which corresponds to a population growth, rates of 2.16%. This latest census indicates that 63% of Algerian population is grouped in northern Country on 4% of territory, 28% in the Highlands on 9% of territory, while the South (87% of territory) covers only 9% of the population.

The unbalanced distribution of population, urban and economic activities is explained by economical, geographical and historical factors. However a rapid urbanization, on several fronts, is a result of development and economical changes in the country which generate overpopulation and population concentration in the large northern cities.
The General Population and Housing Census (RGPH) has underlined the spatial imbalances linked to the unequal distribution of population and economic and urban activities. Maintain or renew this trend, either way, presents serious risks to the territory consistency and sustainability.

**Table 1: Urban population growth: 1966-2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Urban Population</th>
<th>Rural Population</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>3.778.482</td>
<td>8.243.518</td>
<td>12.022.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>11.444.249</td>
<td>11.594.693</td>
<td>23.038.942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>16.966.941</td>
<td>12.133.926</td>
<td>29.100.867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>22.591.694</td>
<td>11.488.336</td>
<td>34.080.030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The urban population recorded in 2008 was multiplied by 7 compared with 1966, a growth which explains the considerable growth of urbanization index, which increased from 31.4% to practically 70% currently. The urban population growth has led to multiplication of urban areas number from 95 units in 1966 to 751 in 2008, giving thereby new reconfiguration of national urban framework that includes:

- 38 urban agglomerations with a population more than 100,000 inhabitants;
- 47 urban agglomerations with a population between 50,000 and 100,000 inhabitants;
- 142 urban agglomerations with a population between 20,000 and 50,000 inhabitants;
- 238 urban agglomerations with a population between 10,000 and 20,000 inhabitants;
- 283 urban agglomerations with a population between 5,000 and 10,000 inhabitants;

The new reconfiguration of urban framework is due to an economic dynamics experienced in the country in recent years which led to an increasing of national housing park, currently estimated at 7.4 million units, while it was 5.268 million units in 1998.

High urbanization tendency, multiplication of the number of cities and their sometimes sprawl are factors that make the problem of cities managing a challenge that Algeria is in the process to meet it, within the framework a new urban governance allowing our cities to take residential and economic functions.

Achievement of new cities in Sidi Abdellah, Bouinan, Boughzoul, Hassi-Messaoud and El-Menea, is part of a logic that basically integrates paradigms of sustainable city in its most expressive dimension.

As well as new cities, the implementation projects of integrated cities (new urban centres) with all amenities, with collective facilities and green spaces must be conducted in the programs being launched.

The present new dynamic has generated, however, undeniable spatial changes. The urban challenge requires the search for new managing methods of our large cities, by not locking them in a uniform logic without taking account their specificities and their role in functioning of national urban network.
Incentive mechanisms to the location in the interior of Tell (within the country) and the relocation of certain activities or services currently located in coastal areas have been established and which are based on incentive and compensatory systems. In this framework, a set of strategies is developed:

- Tellian and coastlines spaces restructuring strategy;
- Highlands development strategy;
- South development strategy;
- Concerted strategy for urban renewal and urban policy;
- Strategy for upgrading and modernization of large cities;
- Prioritization strategy of the country's urban system.

2. Managing Rural-Urban Linkages

The first requirement of present management must remedy the population imbalances and activities in the territory. Indeed, this is not a matter of opposing one territory to the other, but to ensure their development in a harmonious way in proportion to the burden that natural environment of these territories can support without degrading. The management of these challenges has led to public policies advent encouraging:

- Development of drinking water and sanitation, electrification, gas and transport networks, and especially those of electronic communication that facilitate the geographical distribution of activities;
- Decentralization of certain economic activities to the surrounding suburban and rural areas, a region in which the land is more available and cheaper than in urban environment;
- Movement of households from urban areas to rural areas, particularly the landowners;
- The will to develop ecotourism, agro-tourism of nature or soil;
- Transformation of traditional activities to specialty productions, particularly in the agri-food, crafts and heritage;
- The will appearance to preserve environment, including great natural areas and water resources.

Developing rural areas is one of the State's objectives due to consolidation programs of agricultural vocation of villages. To encourage population to settle in the countryside, State through various development plans implemented since 1999 has devoted special attention to rural world, with the launch of construction program estimated at 900,000 rural housing and several basic equipment in the fields of education, health and social services.

The Integrated Rural Development Programs (PPDRI), conceived as collaborative projects built” from bottom to top” with the participation of the local administration services, elected officials, citizens and private economic sector, are in position to meet challenges of managing rural-urban linkages. These programs, 6000 has been achieved, are organized around four (04) main themes:

- Modernization and / or rehabilitation of villages and Ksour (traditional city): improving population life conditions and living standards through villages and Ksour rehabilitation, promotion of infrastructure and socio-economic and cultural facilities for public use;
• Diversification of economic activities in rural areas (local economy, trade, rural tourism, crafts, local products development, PME/PMI, renewable energies ...) and improving attractiveness of rural areas (youth, populations return populations, new facilities ...);

• Protection and development of natural resources: forest, steppe, oasis, mountains, coastline, etc....;

• Protection and promotion of tangible or intangible rural heritage: local products, built land, preservation of sites and historical and cultural products, cultural sites promotion, traditional events ...etc.

3. **Addressing Urban Youth Needs**

The youthful nature of Algerian population structure (60% under 30 years) is considered as asset for development, but also generates an increasing demand regarding access to training, employment, housing, cultural needs... etc.

Algeria attaches great importance to youth employment through support and assistance systems. In this context, the State allocates important budget for implementation of various public policies related to employment and strengthen aid methods.

The different recovery and economic growth programs, initiated since 1999, have enabled to improve addressing social and educational needs of young.

In fact, an important infrastructures number (stadiums, sports halls, swimming pools, playgrounds, youth camps, hostels for young and holiday center) has been achieved. For example, sports halls number is increased from 129 in 1999 to 272 in 2013, which means that the whole efforts committed for supporting the youth needs.

In the field of education, an important effort being made by the State in order to ensure access of all young people to a free and quality education.

4. **Responding to the Needs of the Aged**

Protection the elderly is a national priority. This protection is supported by legal texts, and is implemented by support programs and caring for this category of the population.

The Law No.10-12 Dated 28 December 2010 on the aged persons protection has established the **National Commission for elderly protection.** This Commission is a permanent body of consultation, coordination and proposal for all issues related to the protection and well-being of category this population. This Commission is composed of representatives of ministerial departments, public bodies, associations, as well as professors and university researchers, it ensures and evaluates the National Plan implementation concerning the elderly, approved April 27, 2014.

Assistance and support programs for the elderly are comprised in two mechanisms:
• Support and subsidy mechanism through a fixed solidarity allowance, a granting of microcredit, support and assistance of elderly persons at home and organization of recreation days.
• Institutional care through residential care and day care for the elderly living a precarious social situation.

5. Integrating gender in urban development
The Algerian State has developed a strategy for socio-economic integration of women in society by establishing an action plan to implement the present strategy, assigned to the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and the Status of Women.

The actions implementation is assigned to two (02) national agencies:

National Micro-credit Management Agency (ANGEM): its mission is to fight against unemployment and precariousness in urban and rural areas by promoting self-employment, working from home and handicraft activities especially for women; stabilization of rural populations in their origin areas by emerging economic and cultural activities, production of goods and services, income-generating activities and development entrepreneurial spirit, in a way that would allow improved social integration and individual development of persons.

For this purpose, this Agency grants two types of financing: a credit not exceeding 1.000.000 DZD for the acquisition of small equipments, start-up raw materials and the payment of necessary costs for the launch of the activity as well as interest free loan, for the purchase of raw material, for which the cost does not exceed 100.000 DZD. 61,3% of these projects beneficiaries are “women”.

Social Development Agency (ADS): Its mission is to finance and execute social programmes for social categories living in disadvantaged conditions. It intervenes through a social aid and development programme including a direct support system (fixed solidarity allowance) which benefit women up to 53,6% and a community development system for populations in targeted areas, based on the national poverty map.

The work of these two Agencies is strengthened by programmes for social action and integration as well as cells of proximity.

- A system for social integration activity aiming to integrate young people of 18 to 40 years old, whom have no incomes and in social precariousness circumstances, in jobs generated by works or public utility services. The distribution of beneficiaries by gender for the period 1999-2012, indicates that 52,1% are women against 47,9% men.

- A graduate’s integration system for the professional integration of first-time job seekers from young people. For the period from 1999 up to the first quarter of 2013, 66,6% of the seekers are women against 33,4% of men.

- A system of public utility works of high workforce intensity aiming to create waiting jobs, by fostering and developing temporary jobs through maintenance sites of public heritage.

- A system of blanche Algérie (white Algeria) aiming to foster first-time job seekers category, whom have no means, no qualifications and being interested in the micro activity.
ADS has established, through the national territory, a network of **Proximity Cells for Solidarity (CPS)** composed of pluridisciplinary teams. This network aims to support social programmes managed by the Agency and ensure an overall coherence and a global synergy.

**6. Challenges experienced and lessons learned in these areas.**

A certain number of challenges and lessons are to be mentioned. It is about:

- Difficulties encountered while implementing instruments as the Master Plan of Urban Planning and Development (PDAU) and Land Use Plan (POS) because of ground technical difficulties and the poor training at local level;

- The above mentioned plans have been promptly exceeded by the unrestrained urban dynamics, especially the development of substandard housing. Although these plans, which are designed in a standardized way, are readjusted, on regular basis, according to specificities of different territories and of their dynamics of development.

- The approach of urban issues requires more coordination between the different stakeholders in the territory.

- The deficit of the mobilizable land.

**7. Future Challenge and issues in these areas that could be addressed by New Urban Agenda.**

The control of urban growth is one of the main challenges that Algeria has to meet while ensuring to our cities a development that takes into account environmental requirements and their charge capacity. It is an urban development that must not, in any case, be identified to an addition of housing units, but which must fundamentally integrate the economic dimension which grants functions and elements to our human establishments, to promote urban activities and to grant them attractiveness.

The major orientations for the next ten years must include the implementation of the national strategy of the city, which is under development by the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and City, aiming to analyze trends, upgrade existing instruments, set up new urban planning and management tools as well as necessary quantitative and qualitative tools for this analysis (norms, ratios, revised standards, methodological guides, appropriate equipments grid, evaluation indicators dashboards, rules and regulations of urban planning).

**B. Land and urban planning: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda**

**8. Ensuring Sustainable Urban Planning and Design**

Algerian cities face many problems, among other ones, related to enormous urban sprawl, the development of peri-urbanization, seismic hazard and ecological issues of the 21st century. This is the result of an urban dynamic not unaccompanied with an appropriate instrumentation concerning urban planning in order to control and regulate its growth.

In fact, legal, technical and administrative systems are often part of conditioned approaches by sectoral or territorial logics; they don’t totally meet the facts and imperatives of city management. The gap between the rhythms of the planning process and, from one hand, the implementation tools, and from the other hand urbanization process, constitutes a restriction to the city managers.
To address this situation, the State was engaged in a process of democratization which allows the participatory concept of all actors involved in the sustainable urban development. Specific consultation procedures are being set up to allow the population to take part in the conception of urban planning and development projects.

The issue is to restore the city in its functional dimension and to join the appropriate conditions for sustainable, attractive, functional and resilient cities, through the definition and the implementation of short and long term-multiform and multisectoral actions.

9. Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl

As mentioned above, the increase of the urban population in Algeria has generated a multiplication of urban agglomerations. This situation requires the development of a management that takes into account noticed changes as well as new requirements of urban development.

The generalization of urbanization to the whole national territory improved the population’s living conditions through the construction of housing units and equipments. Although, this situation has generated, in the same time, challenges of certain complexity.

The control of the urban growth must be taken into charge within the framework of the strict implementation of urban planning instruments, for which the efficiency requires the reinforcement of the training level for different stakeholders.

The policy of the city in Algeria, in compliance with national strategy for territorial development, aims, in the first place, to improve the social well-being of populations living in the cities, in an urban environment of social, economic and ecological beneficial dimension for both citizens and business environment.

In fact, the urban and city issue is at the centre of Algerian society changes. Because the living space of the population is almost 70%, the urban became the structuring framework of the whole population.

The urbanization was not supported enough, since it is a phenomenon which is particularly complex in its genesis, aspects as well as its effects. The State was urgently obliged to make prompt but sometimes partial decisions. Today, without need to accomplish the construction phase, the thing becoming essential is the issue of city governance and implementation of real approaches allowing the control of new spatial frameworks. In short, the process of urbanization is marked by moving from the building issue to that of city management.

10. Enhancing Urban and Peri-Urban Food Production

In Algeria, the urban and peri-urban agriculture constitutes a diversity of activities related to food production. The development objectives of this kind of agriculture are various, for which the main ones are the protection of agriculture lands, improvement of agriculture production in the areas near to cities and employment creation.

This kind of agriculture contributes also to food supply (especially fresh products), providing jobs and incomes, as well as food security and nutrition of populations.

Urban and peri-urban agriculture is integrated and interact with the economic and ecological urban system through the existence of urban residents working in farming, the use of urban resources (land, water, inputs …), an increasingly direct link between the producer and
consumer, an impact on urban ecology and an integration of agriculture into the food system of city dwellers.

Beyond the contribution of the urban and peri-urban agriculture to the supply of urban centres, it covers also other economic (generation of main or complementary incomes), environmental (recycling of waste and wastewater, anti-erosive effects, improvement of air quality); living environment (maintain of buffer green areas facing intense, educational and cultural urbanization (transfer of knowing-how, environmental education …) functions.

Besides, for instance, a project of cooperation is carried by the Algerian National Institute for Agronomic Research on hydroponic crops with peri-urban farmers. These crops may produce rich vegetables on small surfaces.

11. Urban Mobility

The high urbanization of the Algerian cities, enhanced by the economic development and its corollary, and the rising of the population’s living standards had a direct impact on explosion of urban mobility and on travel volume. Many Algerian cities have an urban sprawl and a form of metropolization for some.

In fact, the decrease of land prices outside cities fostered constructions and creation of metropolitan areas (as in the case of Algiers). In this context, the own car became the most used mean to deal with the issue of urban mobility.

The own car solved, to some extent, mobility problems, yet it generated many others, which became structural, constituting nowadays economic, social and environmental issues.

12. Improving Technical Capacity to Plan and Manage Cities

The improvement of technical management of cities is related to the capacity of local communities to implement the set and approved legal instruments in the fields of urban planning, transport, management of household wastes and green spaces.

In this regard, major cities (more than 100,000 inhabitants) and metropolis (more than 300,000 inhabitants) must be accorded special status allowing them to have a management that takes in account their demographic weight and their role and positioning in the national urban network.

There are missions requiring the development of an appropriate management concerning technical supervision to follow the implementation process of legal instruments, report the progress and make, when appropriate, necessary corrections and readjustments.

The improvement of technical capacities for the planning and management of the city requires the training of local communities on management of the project, as well as engineering offices, especially public ones, which are ensuring largely urban development planning of our cities.

It also goes through the modernization of tools and management procedures as well as study structures by upgrading them regarding international norms and standards.

To meet these objectives, Algeria developed substantial financial means to train and equip local communities as well as public engineering offices.
Concerning training action and being conscious of the importance of human capacities reinforcement related to cities management, the State decided to establish a city engineering school which offers to the graduate engineers a two years training (post-graduation) in the fields related to cities management and ensure training for technical staff of local communities.

**13. Challenges experienced and Lessons Learned in these Areas**

Mainly, there are issues related to the pre-eminence of sectoral logic on the development and implementation of public programmes. As a matter of urgency, the actions carried out had a relatively limited impact. If they were integrated in a shared territorial project and were given appropriate time, their impacts would match with the agreed investments.

Among the main challenges, we could mention:

- Issue of non-availability of sufficient lands which hamper the building of various economic or social infrastructures;
- Absence of urban plans in some villages which may hamper the building of some infrastructures projects;
- Issues in the field of expropriation.

**14. Future Challenges and Issues in these Areas**

The challenge raised by land planning is related to address spatial imbalances because of the uneven distribution of population and economic activities.

It is a rebuilding of the space through implementing strategic orientations of the SNAT from the point of view of sustainability, rebalancing, attractivity and of land equity.

The risk represented by the high concentration of the population, economic and urban activities on a limited space representing 4% of the total surface of the country makes of the costal zones a phenomenon that Algeria must also take in charge while promoting development inside the country. It is a reviewing of development aiming to boost a new dynamic in the high plateaux and in the south of the country.

The future challenges require joining sectoral actions with those of urban and land development. For this purpose, the legal framework on land, urban planning, land development and city and applied governance ways should be upgraded to implement these texts.

Concerning city management, future issues and challenges are related to take in charge their complexity. For this end, some actions must be carried, namely:

- Establishment of an administrative and technical organization in major cities (more than 100,000 inhabitants);
- Reform of local fiscality to grant more financial autonomy to local communities;
- Reinforcement of different corps in charge of inspection and control in the fields of urban planning, environment and trade;
C. Environment and Urbanization: Issues and Challenges for the New Urban Agenda

15. Addressing Climate Change

Significant progress has been achieved concerning legislation dealing with energy and energy efficiency control. In fact, Algeria acquired since the 1990s a set of Regulatory Technical Documents (DTR) that aim to contain energy consumption and improve energy efficiency of built-up areas. Since the implementation of these DTR, it is estimated that almost 25% of energy has been saved in housing and accompanying public facilities.

Otherwise, for the overall construction projects achieved since 1996, the exterior walls are systematically made of double walls from fired clay bricks.

Algeria continued its efforts to improve energy efficiency for buildings through research projects carried by the National Centre for Studies and Integrated Researches of Building (CNERIB) which allowed the construction of 600 housing units with high energy performance at the end of 2013. A programme for constructing further 6000 housing units of the sort is expected during the quinquennial programme 2015-2019.

Although Algeria is not committed, by the Protocol of Kyoto, to engagements of reducing greenhouse gases, it engaged willingly some attenuation efforts, for which the most significant ones are:

- Realization of 32 projects related to gas flaring recovery by Sonatrach. These projects allowed the recovery of 260 billion M³ of associated gas and the concrete reduce of gas flaring volumes, for which the share fell sharply with some 79% in 1973 to 6% nowadays.

- CO2 sequestering at the well of Kréchba (In Salah). This project allowed the recovery of almost 4 million tones of CO2 up to now; which equals the gain acquired from the withdrawal of some 55000 vehicles from traffic or the afforestation of 50km².

- Introduction of a tax on flaring associated gases, under the law 05-07 related to hydrocarbons;

- Establishment of the National Agency for Promotion and Rationalization of Energy Use (APRUE). Its mission is to implement the national policy for energy efficiency promotion and the national programme of renewable energies, which envisages by 2030 to produce 40% of electricity from renewable energies.

16. Disaster Risk Reduction

Being conscious of its great exposure and its vulnerability, Algeria demonstrated its commitment, since the 1980s, just after the earthquake of El Asnam in 1980, which killed 2.633 people, by planning actions of greater resilience to disasters, through:

- Finalizing a national para-seismic construction code in 1981;

- Adoption of a plan for reduction and management of disasters in 1985;
- Improving, since 1987, the technical capacities regarding seismic monitoring and extensive researches in the field;

- Taking advantage of the lessons learned from the various experienced disasters, as the floods of Algiers- Bab-El-Oued in 2001, the earthquake of Boumerdes on May 21st, 2003, floods of Ghardaïa in 2008 and the numerous forest fires;

- Legal obligation, since 2004, to take out insurance against natural disasters, called “Cat Nat”, for every property owner holding an Algerian nationality;

- Setting up the National Delegation for Major Risks in 2012, in charge of coordination and inter-sector activities to prevent major risks and follow the execution of different prevention plans;

- Setting up flood forecasting and warning system (pilot project: Oued el Harrach and Sidi Bel Abbes). A national strategic study against floods (programme UE-MRE) is under development.

In 2004, Algeria approved the law related to prevent major risks and management of disasters including significant requirements for land development and urban planning. It updated the para-seismic building code (RPA 99/Version 2003) and amended the law related to development and urban planning to better take into account, among other things, environmental hazards.

As far as the research in the seismic field is concerned, Algeria has the National Centre for Researches in Astronomy, Astrophysics and Geophysics (CRAAG) and the National Centre for Applied Earthquake Engineering (CGS).

The CGS manages a national network of 335 accelerographs located in open space and on infrastructures (as dams with 52 devices). It acquired recently a vibrating table, among the most modern in the world, for earthquake simulation.

Besides, the National Office of Meteorology (ONM) contributes to the scientific vision of Algeria for the RRC, through the continuous observation, supervision compilation, analysis and communication of weather patterns to national sectors and users.

The National Agency for Water Resources (ANRH) takes also in charge the prevention from floods, which set a warning system to supervise potential flooding of rivers and streams. A first national report on floods risks is being developed.

17. Reducing Traffic Congestion

The improvement of living standards allowed Algerians to have their own cars. This caused network congestion in major urban centres, high economic costs and growing pollution.

To alleviate the situation, the State dedicated significant budget allocations to the sector of transport, through the various programmes of economic recovery and growth, which allowed reinforcing the national road network from 25.802 km in 1999 to 32.871 km in 2014. The same dynamic has been also noticed in road networks of provinces (wilayas) and municipal roads. In terms of action, Algeria executed a number of programmes:

- Opening, electrification and rehabilitation of railway transport network, in urban and interurban areas, in order to ensure a progressive model transfer from road to railway (90% of the exchanges are made nowadays by road);
- Launching investment programmes to extend road networks and increase the capacity (open new roads, highways, bypasses, rehabilitation …)

- Promoting of first quality public transports, through setting up extensive investment projects: metro d’Alger, 22 tramway in the main agglomerations, establishment of public enterprises for urban transport in all provinces (wilayas) of the country;

- Optimizing existing network capacities. It is scheduled to establish the Traffic Management Centre of Algiers and to equip 100 crossroads with traffic lights.

The government’s action plan for the quinquennium 2014-2019 reinforces this dynamic of constructing road infrastructures and the development of sustainable modes of transport through:

- Continuous extension and modernization of the railway network regarding double track roads on all the northern railway bypass, as well as working on new lines;

- Progressive electrification of the whole network as well as the acquisition and the renewing of railway equipment of passengers, goods and traction transport;

- Construction of new stations as well as modernization and rehabilitation of the existing ones;

- Extension of metro, tramway and cableway lines.

18. Air Pollution

Evolution of the vehicle Park (more than 7 million units) makes from acute pollution in urban areas a recurrent phenomenon. This situation requires the setting of appropriate measures aiming to use less polluting fuel (without lead) and less polluting vehicles.

The law 03-10 related to environment instituted the principal of precaution and of polluter-pays, executed simultaneously through the development of impact studies on environment and studies on risks as well as the payment, in extreme cases, of the tax related to air pollution.

The law 05-07 related to hydrocarbons reinforces these principles through the introduction of flaring tax as well as the obligation of developing impact studies accompanied by an environmental management plan and a gas releases management plan for the new facilities as well as energy audits for the existing ones.

A number of actions are carried out in order to fight against air pollution. We could mention:

- Establishing two surveillance networks of air quality in conurbations in Algiers and Annaba. Similar operations will be undertaken in conurbations of Oran, Batna, Skikda, Setif and Tizi-Ouzou;

- Reviewing technical criteria of vehicle control;

- Development of group transport networks;

- The promotion of green transport;

- Improvement of associated infrastructures (parking lots and truck stops), as well as the development of maritime transport and railways;

- Generalization of electricity and natural gas and LPG (butane gas) as fuels.
- Promotion of the use of clean fuel on the basis of a program that lasts till 2020. It focuses on the use of LPG.
- The use of clean fuels including liquefied petroleum gas (LPG-C), and natural gas (GNC)
- Implementing the National Program for the Management of Household Waste (PROGDEM). Over 1200 municipal networks of household waste management and 69 technical landfills have been created. Within this program, 50% of household wastes were treated.

19. Obstacles encountered and lessons learned in the fields of environment and urbanization.

In the area of building, the main efforts so far focused on measures aiming to achieve best energy efficiency in the building. The main difficulties lie in the spread of double and triple glazing in houses and in public equipment and the difficulty of equipping houses with solar water heaters or photovoltaic devices, since most built houses are collective buildings.

As regards to disaster risk reduction, the civil society is deeply rooted in Algeria at the local level. However, it does not yet contribute effectively in different prevention and awareness raising actions.

20. Future challenges and issues that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda

The major issue is the spread and implementation of energy efficiency requirements in construction.

Algeria should also face other challenges, such as:

- The development of a comprehensive and integrated national DRR strategy for an overall direction and coordination. This national strategy will focus on strengthening institutional capacities on the national and local as well as between sectors.
- Development of legal and regulatory instruments for rehabilitating and upgrading old buildings by introducing measures aiming to improve their thermal efficiency.
- The need to training to master measurement procedures of measurement, notification, verification and all other actions that had been and undertaken by Algeria to combat climate change
- Providing local authorities with more capacities and resources, in order to implement laws and regulations at the local level.
- Raise awareness among the community by further involving media and children.
- The spread of disaster insurance

D. Urban Governance and Legislation:

21. Improvement of urban legislation.

The legislation implemented after the independence, with respect to urban and town planning, including the 1974 Order on the creation of land reserves in the benefit of municipalities, and
the Order of 1976 on expropriation for public interest, aimed at avoiding urban crowding and preserving the country’s agricultural potential.

The directive Plan for Urban and Town Planning, and the Plan of Land Occupation and two leading instruments of the law 90-29 issued in 01/12/90 on urban and town planning. The implementation of these plans was difficult for the following reasons:

- Time gaps between time limits of elaboration and approval of instruments, and deadlines for the completion of different urban dynamics;
- Their standardization doesn’t fit different geographical, economic and institutional situations, and/or the difference in complexity levels between cities;
- The lack of coherent linking with land planning.

22. Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

The powers conferred to territorial authorities are part of decentralization. The duties of these local authorities are part of a political choice on participative and associative management of local public services in accordance with the law no. 2011-10 of 22 June 2011 on municipalities, particularly its articles 3 and from 103 to 124.

The Wilaya, a State decentralized local authority, is part of the State decentralization process on the local level. It undertakes its specific assignments in accordance with the law no. 07-12 of 21 February 2012.

Within the framework of national consultations on local development, National Economic and social Council in 2012, guidelines have been set out in the field of habitat on:

- The review of procedures of house distribution in transparency and in accordance to the principle of equality by involving neighborhood committees;
- Increasing the number of houses afforded to young people;
- Resetting the formula of social housing to include more citizens;
- Establishing appropriate procedures, in order to control migration flows, and encourage populations to settle in internal regions.

Furthermore, it appeared necessary to suggest a development strategy for every territory through the collaboration of all the local bodies by creating a local cell of economic animation that includes representatives of municipalities, public institutions and neighborhood and town committees.

As regard to creating development institutions and intermediate spaces specialized in the supervision of local authorities, it is recommended to set out these institutions and spaces on the basis of sector and territorial programming of the National Plan for Land Planning (SNAT).

This approach is thriving on innovative visions of territorial spaces management on the economic, social and administrative levels. It is based on proximity and engineering, and focuses on a legal framework on the basis of the following:
- Rehabilitating plans which define the perspectives, objectives and economic development ways of the Wilaya, on the medium term. These plans should be adopted to municipalities within the same periods;
- Creating a local observatory of development intended to undertake studies, statistics and analysis to supervise territorial authorities;
- Creation project incubator in Wilayas and new business in the interest of young entrepreneurs;
- Establishing a banking network for local development supported by bodies of risk analysis, resources transformation, mobilization and saving in favor of bank financing of local development projects;
- Provide municipalities and provinces with means so they could undertake different projects.

23. **Improving participation and human rights in urban development**

Social inclusion and equity are priorities for the State. An economic and social strategy is implemented on families. It targets job opportunities for classes that underprivileged and/or in social difficulties, and improving their access to basic social services, as well as strengthening their role in the development on the national community.

The national strategy of the family 2010-2014 ad opted by the Algerian Government includes action plans and integrated programs, which are adapted to social and economic changes of the family with the aim to strengthen its structure and evolution. This strategy is based on the following axes:

- Reinforcing the links among the family and consolidating its role;
- Promoting rights and services in aid of elder persons and persons in specific need;
- Developing viable environment and improved health;
- Empowering the family against globalization challenges;
- Developing mechanisms to insure social cohesiveness.

As regards to populations living in vulnerable situations or social difficulties (deprived persons with chronic diseases, children and adults living social insecurity or/and psychological difficulties …), the Ministry of National Solidarity, of the Family and Women’s Issues have several institutions throughout the country. It set a process of aid, hearing, support and guidance for precarious families in the 48 provinces as well as within its divisions that consist of 114 spaces.

On the institutional level, the State created several institutions, including:

- National Council for Family and Women: it was created upon Presidential Decree of 22 November 2006. The Council is a consultative body in charge of giving proposals and undertakes debates and evaluation of family and women related actions. Considering the transversal character of its tasks, it is composed of representatives from different ministries, other State institutions and bodies, associations, as well as from the social society.
National Center for Studies, Information and Documentation of Family, Women and Childhood: created in 2013, the center’s main mission is to undertake information and communication activities, as well as studies and surveys to promote the family’s role within the society, with more importance given to women and children.

The state is deeply concerned with improving life conditions of disabled persons. In this context, the law no. 02-09 of 8 May 2002 on the protection and the promotion of disabled persons provides for in article 30 that it is mandatory to eliminate barriers that hinder disabled persons from social participation.

24. Improving urban security

Security of persons and properties is part of the preoccupations of public authorities. The State dedicated considerable funds (over 130 Billion DA) for security and protection of persons. Moreover, several actions are taken in the following fields:

- Creating more stations of National Security and National Gendarmerie
- Reinforcing means to combat terrorism and subversive actions, crime, drug trafficking and delinquency.
- Modernizing technical and scientific police.

With respect to the development of infrastructures, the Directorate General set out a program to increase the number of Security Stations in sub-provinces (Dairas) and urban areas.

Moreover, other police organs have been reinforced, such as judiciary police mobile brigade (BMPJ), Scientific Police, Border Police units, Order Keeping Police.

In order to strengthen institutions combating organized crime, it will be created regional entities named “Judiciary Police Grouping”, and a National Center “National Institute for Criminology”.

In the same context, the progressive deployment of Communal Guard has significantly contributed in restoring security and state control.

Concerning civil security, prevention actions are implemented by Directorate General of Civil Protection on:

- Implementing information and awareness raising actions on ways of management of major hazards;
- Elaborating a document on seismic hazards in Algeria;
- Conducting a study on floods in Algeria and creating a database on floods;
- Updating maps of geography of risks in all provinces and municipalities;
- Updating the map of operational means;
- Continuing efforts in studies on prevention and security control of social and economic institutions.

With respect to road safety in the urban environment, considering the number of motor vehicles, risks of pedestrian-motor vehicle collisions in Algeria are relatively higher in urban
centers, (792 deaths among 4540). It is deemed necessary to adopt more efficient policies on urban planning (footbridges, slides) and local prevention.

25. **Improving social inclusion and equity**

The efforts of the State in the social field are embodied in improving social and economic factors. The Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women’s Issues, focusing on the family, has set up an approach to fight poverty, social insecurity and exclusion.

These programs are based on several means, including supporting income-generating activities, social development actions, local activities, social assistance and medical care access for deprived persons.

Responsibility for disabled persons constitutes a constant concern for public authorities. Algeria, with the aim to adapt its legislation in accordance with international instruments, ratified on 12 May 2009 by Presidential Decree no. 09-188, the International Convention on the rights of People with Disabilities.

Several legal texts have been issued after adopting the law no. 02-09 of 8 May 2002 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities:

- Executive decree no. 06-455 of 11 December 2006 on access of disabled persons to physical, social, economic and cultural environment;
- Ministerial order of 6 March 2011 on technical criteria of access of disabled persons to built environment and public equipment.

The goal of these texts is the compliance with the prescriptions of the Algerian standard NA 16227 on conditions of access of people with physical disabilities to public buildings and equipment.

26. **Challenges experienced and lessons learned in the field of environment and urban planning**

The following elements may be learned from the Algerian experience regarding the relation between human rights and urban development:

- Respect of human rights in accordance with international conventions in any new agenda;
- Evaluation obstacles that may be the reason for discrimination against people facing shelter vulnerability;
- Reinforcing measures to facilitate access of disabled persons to adequate housing, public buildings and services and transport.

27. **Future challenges and issues: reinforcing urban policy and the city**
Giving that population worldwide, including Algeria, must settle in urban environment in the future, it is important to know if the criteria of agglomerations will be out of control.

In this scope, the main challenge for the next decades is to make environmental balance that the world should face, through the balance between development in cities boosted by growing social and economic needs and environment protection, particularly ecosystems and natural resources.

It is important to reshape future visions and adopt strategic choices to face environmental risks.

Moreover, improvements in the legal instruments on city management can be observed, despite some weaknesses.

In 2013, the Government decided to confer the responsibility for city planning to the ministry of Habitat and Urban Planning to better coordinate the actions of the State.

For this objective, the Ministry of Habitat prepared a program based on the following axis:

**Axis 1:** setting out a national strategy to promote city management, and the creation of the National Observatory of the City (ONV) which will allow urban structure development.

**Axis 2:** improving cities in order to ameliorate life conditions by rehabilitating and renewing cities.

With this respect, pilot operations will be launched to shape a national program that will progressively include all our cities. The institution in charge of urban renewing will be created in the near future.

**Axis 3:** building new cities and urban poles. The projects of national interest that will be implemented, requires high level technical studies and financing means, in addition to the role of different actors.

These axes target the following aspects:

- The mastering of urban growth and improvement of built environment
- Improving life conditions
- Modernizing and renewing cities
- Favoring the potentials of cities
- Preparing a new organizational framework for an efficient management of the city.

**E. Urban Economy**

**28. Improving local finance**

The Government’s aim through different action plans is to consolidate decentralization and strengthen municipal finance. 1541 municipalities existing in Algeria are expected to meet the needs of their citizens, by improving their life conditions.
Improving municipal finance is reflected by the raise in tax revenues designated directly or indirectly to municipalities, or indirectly by the Common Fund of Local Communities (FCCL).

- Increasing tax revenues in municipalities:

Currently, tax revenues for local communities are composed of several taxes and duties assigned to them, either in a direct way, through municipal treasurers or tax receivers, or indirectly by the Common Fund Local Government (FCCL).

Concerning tax income allocated directly to municipal budgets, we mention particularly what follows:

- Tax on Professional Activity (TAP), assigned to municipalities for 65%;
- The Value Added Tax (VAT), affected up to 10%
- Tax of Household Waste collection (TEOM), affected up to 100%;
- Property tax on developed and undeveloped property, affected up to 100%
- Tax on property Income, assigned to 50%;
- Tax Lump Unique (IFU), assigned to 40%.

Concerning revenues allocated directly to municipal budget through the Common Fund Local Government (FCCL). We mention the following deductions:

- Tax on Professional Activity (TAP), assigned to (FCCL).
- Added Value Tax (TVA) assigned to FCCL up to 10% or 20% according to the collected Tax, is paid by the Directorate of Major Enterprises (DGE);
- Vehicle tax, assigned to FCCL up to 80%;
- Environmental taxes assigned to FCCL to variable rates (25 or 50%).

It should be noted that tax revenues assigned to FCCL are added to subventions and compensations deducted from the State budget. These revenues are redistributed by the FCCL to municipalities and provinces according to defined criteria through regulation.

Financial aids from Local Authorities Common Fund to municipalities have several forms and concern operating costs as well as expenditures of municipalities’ budgets, in order to seek the remove of some inequalities in revenues distribution between municipalities.

- Control of communes expenditures

Taking account of recurrent deficits observed in communes budgets, it was decided to make at the disposal of communes civil servants (financial controllers) paid by the State budget, in order to provide advice and guidance to the Presidents of Municipal People’s Assemblies (P/MPA), on one hand; on the other hand, to verify the compliance of the expenses incurred by P/MPA with the regulation in force.

29. Strengthening and improving of access to housing finance.

The State has taken several measures to reinforce and ameliorate the condition of housing finance. Public social programmes in this field were essentially intended for the access to social housing and other assimilated forms (aid to construction …).
Since the beginning of the 2000’s, State participation to housing finance is more and more leaning to funding forms that more involve and mobilize financial sector and households. This participation was promoted by the creation, in 1997, of long-term Mortgage Refinancing Company (MRC), in order to protect purchasers and banks from eventual failure of property developer.

This system was reinforced by three (03) provisions of law of finance for the year 2010, which tackles:

- Treasury loan for civil servants, improved at a rate of 1% on the expense of the beneficiary, intended for the acquisition, construction and extension of housing;
- Bank loan improved, by public Treasury, on a basis of a fixed rate compared with the beneficiary income and intended to the acquisition of collective houses or the construction of rural houses;
- Bonuses granted by the Treasury (article 74 of law of finance for the year 2010) for credits granted by banks and financial establishments.

The targeted objective through these is to upgrade affordability of housing applicants and to allow property developers to have in their disposal funds to their projects with less financial costs.

Beside these measures, other advantages of real estate, financial and fiscal nature contributing to the intensive housing development are implemented, such as granting substantial allowances (more than 80%) on public lands intended to real estate development, a non-repayable financial assistance for households whose income is less than the income threshold fixed by reference to the number of time the Guaranteed National Minimum Wage and the maintaining of reduced VAT rate (7%) on building and exploitation of housing instead of a normal rate of 17%.

What is undeniable is that the accumulation of all the above-mentioned advantages offers an exceptional opportunity for households to have access to a housing property.

In terms of taxation, measures were adopted to reinforce housing offer, particularly, through the application of a 19% tax rate on firms’ benefits instead of a normal rate of 25% as well as the exemption from Total Income Tax, for natural persons, or from tax on firm’s benefits for moral persons, revenues or benefits resulting from activities of social, rural and promotional housing construction.

In terms of formulas of access to housing, distinction shall be made between:

- **Public rental housing (PRH):** funded by the budget of the State, this segment is intended to households whose income does not exceed 24000 DA; it may be also intended to re-housing as part of curbing precarious habitat.
- **Assisted promotional housing (LPH ex. PSH):** this type of housing is intended to households whose revenue is included between one and six-fold the Guaranteed National Minimum Wage and 1% interest-rate rebate of loans granted by banks.
- **Sale and rental housing (NAHID):** intended to households whose revenue is included between 24 000 DA and the Guaranteed National Minimum Wage six-fold and 1% interest-rate rebate of loans granted by banks.
- **Rural housing:** this type of housing planned in the rural area is intended for households whose revenue is inferior or equal to the Guaranteed National Minimum
Wage six-fold. It benefits from a direct assistance and 1% interest-rate rebate of interest rate of loans granted by banks.

**Housing formulas LPH and NAHID and rural housing benefit from a frontal assistance of the State.**

- **Public promotional housing:** it is intended to a fringe of population whose wage is superior to the Guaranteed National Minimum Wage twelvefold and inferior to the Guaranteed National Minimum Wage six-fold. It benefits from a loan improved to 3% and from a rebate on real estate.

### 30. Supporting local economic development

Local development has benefited, particularly since the 1990’s, from a special interest from public authorities through the implementation of the development national strategy.

In this context, substantial investments were established, particularly in special programs, development municipal plans and devolved sectoral programmes.

These programs are funded from the State’s capital budget, in the form of program authorizations, but made, controlled and managed by local communities and decentralized authorities.

The State’s financial in order to realize development infrastructures for the 1999-2009 period amounts to AD 19 640 billions.

The State Strategy aims at reaching the following objects:

- Ensuring equilibrium between municipalities: via a set of projects aiming at decreasing imbalances observed in different sectors;
- Ameliorating life conditions of populations through a better respond to their concerns and expectations and meeting their fundamental social needs (housing with potable water, connectivity to gas and to electricity);
- Reinforcing structured assets: through the construction of railways in order to increase relations between municipalities, cable car in urban areas, tramway, modernization and reinforcement of airports, industrial estate…;
- Restoring and rehabilitating degraded urban furniture through the realization of new actions of urban amelioration;
- Creating new enlargement urban poles.

### 31. Creating decent jobs and livelihoods

The experience of Algeria in terms of creating decent jobs and fighting unemployment, in particular unemployment of youth, is worth to be highlighted. The principle bases of government’s plan of action in the field of employment centered on supporting investments in economic sectors that create jobs, promoting qualified trainers, inciting firms to encourage recruitment, promoting youth employment, reinforcing different professional integration schemes and amelioration, as well as modernization of work market management.

In order to facilitate the access of the unemployed to work market, the State has set out different schemes of supporting employment and revenues. Since their lunching, these schemes have known certain progress that allowed them to get more and more efficient. In addition, new programs that include categories of targeted populations were set forth while specialized agencies in the management of different schemes were established.
These different policies have allowed decreasing effectively unemployment which had dropped from 30% in 1999 to 9.8% in 2013, besides, the creation of more than 256000 of micro-enterprises between 2010 and 2013 that generated more than 530000 direct jobs.

**As per promoting youth employment,** the government strategy is based on a set of public schemes supporting business creation and on imitative measures of promoting employment.

Concerning supporting schemes, it shall be mentioned:

**Youth-employment support fun of which the objective is** to promote entrepreneurship spirit among 19 to 35 years old youth (40 when micro-enterprise creates 3 jobs positions and more) through the creation of micro-enterprises in all activity sectors for a maximum investment amount of AD 10 billion. These micro-enterprises, besides the fact that they will constitute a matrix to the future network of SME/SMI, are expected to play an important role of animating and promoting economic and social activity within the scope of local development policy.

**The scheme supporting business creation for unemployed entrepreneurs aged between 30 and 50 years:** it is aimed at encouraging and supporting business creation unemployed with expertise, a project and capacity of self-financing. Like the scheme administrated by the Youth employment Support National Agency, investment total amount is capped to AD 10 billion.

Concerning salaried employment promotion, the action plan is centered on a set of schemes that relates to professional integration (Professional Employability Support Rights) which based on 2 types of integration contracts suggested to youth according to their level of qualification, for a period of 3 years renewable in the administration and 1 years renewable in economic sector; a training-integration contract (TIC), intended to encourage first-time job seeking youth without any training or qualification; Subsidized employment contract (SEC), for which, the State provides a subsidy to the salary for renewable 3 years period and a training-employment contract (TEC) intended to encourage ameliorating and adapting professional qualifications of first-time job seeking youth.

**Regarding incentive measures,** they are intended to support business creation through a set of advantages on rebating banks interest-rate and tax exemption in the stages of projects creation and realization.

Reinforcing women participation in labor market is a constant preoccupation of public authorities. Despite the fact that women proportion in labour market approximates 20% of the workforce, this represents a significant progress. Moreover, during the period 2008-2011, 560015 women have benefited from the scheme supporting profession integration, among them 22750 obtained a subsidized employment contract.

**32. Integration of urban economy into national development policy**

Urban economy is tightly linked to the urbanization process that has privileged housing realization compared with economic logic.

Urban economy rehabilitation has as corollary a profound reconsideration of urbanization which shall not consist only in housing construction, but also in providing equipments likely to boost the economical activity, particularly, tertiary activities and services, and in giving
momentum and adapted functions that will contribute to urban spaces development and promotion.

Urban development shall provide for spaces intended to activities that favor urban economy, jobs creation and attractiveness of cities. The national framework for territory development had defined the duties of cities (relay cities, of balance and development) within the national urban framework, along with précising activities to be developed within the scope of a functional urban hierarchy.

Within the framework of the national forum on local development, led by the National Economic and Social Counsel in 2012, this latter has recommended a number of measures supported by specific axes in a way to add value to the national policy intended to housing, above all, in its urban-economy dimension.

Municipalities’ resources shall be enhanced through, among others, promoting Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) that creates jobs at the local level. Indeed, the assertion of the territory as the ability of enterprising and mobilizing in a way to join the objective of making the SME in Algeria, the principal support of economic restructuring at the territorial level. Private sector is expected to play a major role in this regard. This approach calls for:

- Diversifying local development policies in connection with sectoral programming approach and a local-development approach centered on municipalities’ needs and initiatives.
- Exploiting territorial diversity as development factor of the SME.
- Examining closely enterprises dynamics and existing imbalances in terms of business and investments climate, according to territorial configurations.
- Expand, spatially, SMEs for the purpose of ameliorating the attractiveness of territories in connection with offered externalities.

According to the results of the economic census (EC) realized by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in 2011 and which has concerned 990,496 entities from which 934,200 economic units, the national economic network is strongly dominated by micro-units from which 95% (888,794), while legal persons (enterprises) represent only 5%, i.e. 45,456 entities.

Approximately 83.7%, per stratum, of economic entities employing less than employees are in urban sector, from which 21% in the capital, followed by Oran (6.8%) and Sétif (5.3%). Distribution according to entrepreneurs’ type shows that among 888,794 surveyed natural persons; 798,026 i.e. 89.8% are men versus 90,768 women i.e. 10.2%.

The EC highlights the predominance of commercial sector with 511,700 entities, i.e. 55% of them, of which 84% of the activity is concentrated on retail trade, the rest are divided between wholesale and the automotive trade. The sector of services (in which transport represents 18.8% and restoration 14.5%) with 317,988 entities represents 34% of all economic entities of the country.

Concerning Industry, among 95,445 surveyed entities, 24.8% are operating in agro-industries 23.4% in metallic product manufacturing, 11% in clothing, 1.7% in wood processing and wooden and cork items manufacturing, 1.3% in textile, 1.3% in repairing and installing machines and equipments.

33. Challenges experienced and lessons learned in the field of urban economy
Local communities are experiencing at the present time a discrepancy between their resources and their missions. This situation is becoming more difficult due to the pressure that cities face in the matter of the housing demand and allied services.

However, despite of the importance of the financial problematic, the reform shall not be limited at the two aspects of finance and local taxation.

In order to be efficient, the reform must target the reshaping of the entire organizational system of local collectivities and their environment in its all dimensions.

Diagnose made by the inter-ministerial Committee on finance and local taxation reform has come to the following observations:

- A mosaic taxes and duties;
- A strong disparity in output among different duties and taxes;
- A fiscal structure that promotes industrial and/or commercial regions;
- A low output of taxes based on property
- The weakness of local human resources.

As a result, a short and long-term way-bill was laid out for the execution of an in-depth reform in order to correct deficiencies and malfunctions observed in finance and local communities.

34. Future challenges and issues

The overall process of reform of local finance and taxation with a particular interest in controlling costs related to the operation of local public services shall be pursued. For this purpose and as part of further work of the gradual realization of the reform of local finance and taxation, other aspects are subjected to studies, in order to:

- End the recurring debt;
- Improve the performance of local taxation by planning the tax system;
- Achieve a better cooperation between tax authorities and local government services;
- Achieve the reform of the inter-community solidarity system.

The efforts of the state are moving towards a diversified emerging economy that creates employment and wealth and that relies on a performance strategy and an inclusive and equitable sustainable development. As such, the intention is to strengthen the investment in job-creating sectors such as agriculture, industry, tourism and crafts and to promote the development of small and medium enterprises in order to improve the growth rate and maintain a downward trend in the unemployment rate, especially among young people and graduates.

In the area of the urban economy and to address certain regional imbalances and social disparities resulting from a policy of locating public investments in urban spaces at the expense of the rest of the territory, a study on the national master plan of implantation of business infrastructures is being carried out. It will define an efficient overall strategy of implantation of trade spaces in all the provinces (wilayas), taking into account the specialties of each region in terms of design and construction of these equipments.

F. Housing and Basic Services: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

35. Slum upgrading and prevention.
The national census of precarious constructions carried out through all provinces (wilayas), pursuant to the decisions of the Inter-ministerial Council of 28 January 2007, has identified a stock of dwellings qualified as precarious of 561000 units. The treatment is intended through two operations:

- The construction of 381045 units of new public rental housing intended for re-housing.
- The upgrading and rehabilitation of 180000 existing units of housing listed in the precarious category, but can be rehabilitated, thus, allowing occupants to have in their own environment and more rapidly, housing that meets the requirements, along with avoiding additional real estate consuming.

36. Improving access to adequate housing

In the context of improving the living conditions of the population, the public authorities have had to deal with the urgent needs expressed by the poorly housed whether in urban or rural areas. The policy advocated by the state relies on the commitment to maintain an intensive production of housing. It is aimed at:

- Downsizing of the existing gap between supply and demand and improving the living conditions of the urban and rural population;
- Gradually eradicating precarious housing through the operations of improvement and rehabilitation of retained dwellings;
- Reducing the rate of housing occupancy;
- Rehabilitating of precarious housing and dilapidated buildings;
- Developing rural areas in order to settle its people and to improve their living conditions.

This policy is accompanied by measures such as:

- Diversifying the supply of housing with taking into account the improvement of housing conditions and household incomes, hence the existence of several segments (Rental public and rural housing intended to the fringe of the poorer population, leasing-selling housing, assisted promotional and public promotional housing intended to the medium category);
- Supporting housing through fiscal and parafiscal granted by the state in order to reduce the gap between offer and demand;
- Determining rigorous conditions of access to housing on the basis of the administrative record provided by applicants;
- Establishing of the national register of housing as a means of control and follow-up;
- Mastering of the development of the built environment through the entire national territory by land and urban planning instruments.

37. Ensuring sustainable Access to Safe Drinking Water

Pursuant to the water law 05-12 of 4 March 2005, the national water policy proceeds to secure access to safe drinking water and territorial equity through the construction of dams and large regional transfers and an interconnecting dams system. The strategy of water resources sector is built on the following areas:

- Increasing the mobilization of water resources under its conventional and unconventional forms and this to ensure the coverage of domestic, industrial and agricultural water needs;
- Rehabilitating and developing supply infrastructures and drinking water supply in order to minimize losses and improve the quality of service;
- Rehabilitating and developing sanitation and wastewater treatment infrastructures in order to reuse and conserve limited water resources;
- Reforming the legal, institutional and organizational framework to ensure good water governance and to improve management indicators.

Algeria currently has 70 dams in operation with a total capacity of 7.16 billion m$^3$ and of 18 transfers and conveyances operating a total length 1291.8 kilometers. Added to this is the construction of 11 dams with a capacity of 939 hm$^3$ and 05 billion m$^3$, corresponding to a fill rate of 70.1%, i.e. an augmentation 3% compared to 2012.

Currently the rate of connection to the drinking water network is 95% with a daily per capita allocation of 175 L / d. the rate of drinking water supply across 1541 municipalities every day, 13% every other day and 7% every third day

To further improve the storage capacity and preserve the resource, a mobilization, renovation, auscultation and desalting program is envisaged

Moreover, the Ministry of Water Resources has initiated a major program for the mobilization of non-conventional water resources, both to secure the water supply of major cities and coastal areas with sea water desalination and to strengthen irrigation farmland with the valuation of treated wastewater.

The implementation of the program held in sea water desalination focused on achieving 13 desalination plants with a total capacity of 2.3 million cubic meters / day. Added to these stations, there are 21 piece stations, with a total production capacity of 57,500 m$^3$ / d.

**In terms of water governance,** the water resources sector has implemented a legal and institutional reform in response to triple requirements:

- The sustainability of water resources management, the sustainability of water resources management involves the development of instrumentation and a set of actions for strengthening and fighting against natural phenomena and the practical uses of weakening the exploitable possibilities. In this framework, the water resources sector has engaged a structured approach based on:
  - The supervision and control of water resources use by an authorization and concession legal schemes adapted to the nature of resources to their uses;
  - Saving overexploited or vulnerable aquifers, through a mastery of their operation (management models);
  - Management of watersheds to reduce water erosion and dams siltation;
  - Prevention and control of pollution-related risks of all types.

- The planning of a concerted management of hydraulic infrastructures and water resources involves the set up of instruments that allow balancing between the strategic goals of the sector, in one hand, and the response programs related to infrastructural development and water management, in the other hand. In this context, water resources sector launched an institutionalized approach based on:
  - drawing up regional steering plans of development and management of hydrographic basins, consolidated within a national plan for water;
- promoting institutional consultation through tripartite basin committees (State-local communities-users) established within the hydrographic basins agencies, in one hand, and the national advisory council for water resources, in the other hand.

- The need for efficient management of water and sanitation public services implies that all means are mobilized to ensure upgrading the organization and professionalization of the operating functions, particularly through:
  - modernization of technical management measures and reinforcement of means of exploitation, maintenance of facilities and water quality monitoring;
  - strengthening commercial management in all its components (relations with customers-generalization and improvement of counting-recovering);
  - training of personnel in the fields of water and sanitation.

In this regard, water resources sector set up suitable conditions to develop the system of management conferral to private operators, taking into account all public-private partnership practices.

38. Ensure sustainable access to basic sanitation and drainage

Following the expansion of sanitation networks of which the linear reached 43.000 km, the rate of urban population connectivity to public supply network increased from 72% in 1999 to 86% in 2010 and 87% in 2013.

In addition to networked infrastructures strengthening, many operations have been committed in different cities and regions to combat the effects of floods and surplus waters upwelling. The most significant projects involve works of sanitation and protection of the M’Zab valley and the cities of Sidi Bel Abbès and Tébessa, as well as actions to combat water upwelling in El Oued and Ouargla situated in the South of the country.

With regard to the goal of water resources protection and non-conventional resources optimization, an important program of waste-waters treatment plants establishment has been committed, in recent years, to treat on priority basis:

- the waste-waters in the areas situated upstream from the operational dams and water tables as well as areas over 100.000 inhabitants;
- the waste-waters in the areas situated upstream from the projected or under construction dams;
- the waste-waters in coastal areas.

The number of waste-waters treatment plants and lagoons reached 138 units in 2013 of a total capacity of around 800 millions m$^3$/yr. With the projects in progress, the number will reach 205 plants and 96 lagoons, increasing, thus, the total capacity by 1.2 billion m$^3$/yr.

Concerning irrigation, the operational area in large perimeters reached 220.000 ha from which approximately 100.000 ha have been achieved in the period 2000-2009. For small and medium-seized irrigation, the irrigated area exceeds 900.000 ha, mainly from underground resources. The number of hillside storage resources includes more than 400 works from which one hundred were achieved in the period 2014-2019, allowing the mobilization of 50 million m$^3$ and the irrigation of an area of 10.000 ha.
The future challenge is to promote the irrigation development policy in all its forms during the next five-year period (2014-2019), thanks to mobilized water resources that will be the best optimized through the use of water saving irrigation methods.

39. **Improving access to domestic energy**

In every country, energy services contribute to the economic prosperity, social wellbeing, security and sustainable development. Access to energy is the prior condition for real development in different fields.

Access to energy, through its role in the economic and social development, is one of the State’s key concerns. The issue is to make energy available for citizen at a cost that is not prohibitively expensive although it remains indicative to its use optimizing.

The Algerian experience in access to energy is enriching. The State’s effort with regard to the capacity of production and infrastructures of transport and distribution, allowed an excellent coverage in the country. Thus, today, all citizens have access to electricity and natural and butane gas or gasoil and other fuels to reasonable and truly affordable prices.

As regards electricity, the rate of electrification of the country is close to 99%, thanks to the important investments achieved in this sector since independence.

Concerning natural gas, the current rate of households’ connectivity is about 52%, one of the most high worldwide.

40. **Improving access to sustainable means of transport**

The sustainable road transport involves several aspects related to energy control and environment protection, taking into account that hydrocarbons resources are exhaustible and the increase of national demand of energy.

Transports are one of the most important sources of atmosphere pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This concern has been included in the Algerian policy in the field of environment protection in a way which promotes sustainable development.

The use of sustainable transports is supported through a set of legal texts (law n°01/13 of 7\textsuperscript{th} August 2001 related to the orientation and the organization of road transports within the framework of sustainable development; law n°98-06 of 27\textsuperscript{th} June 1998 laying down the general rules related to civil aviation). In the field of maritime transport, the protection of environment and fight against marine pollution are supported within the framework of Algeria’s international commitments.

41. **Obstacles experienced and lessons learned related to the housing and basic services**

With regard to sustainable access to drinking water, a number of physical and hydro climatic obstacles can be identified, which have a sustainably negative impact on the population satisfaction of drinking water. These obstacles are related to arid and semi-arid climate, heavy rain falls and irregular hydrological regimes, as well as seasonal variations of stream flows that depend on many climatic and physical factors related to watersheds (rainfall regime, lithology of watersheds, climate conditions, and basins equipment with hydraulic structures …).

Other obstacles also remain as regards the geological difficulties of some land types, particularly watersheds with marl geological structures characterized by impermeable lands
and accentuated reliefs without vegetation cover. These obstacles have consequences, in one hand, on the soil erosion and flows irregularity and, in the other hand, on constraints of mobilization and management due to:

- The bad spatial distribution of resources resulting in inequity between needs and resources and requiring great interregional transfers.
- The silting of dams which is a significant obstacle to the capacities of storage and renewal of superficial water resources.
- The increase of pollution related phenomena due to population pressure causing rapid deterioration of water resources as a result of urban and industrial discharges, as well as the intensification of agricultural activity.
- The important costs of investments necessary for these resources mobilization and transfer.
- The water wastes due to obsolescence of some networks and wastage.

**42. Future challenges in the fields of housing and basic services**

In order to develop sustainable public transport means, the State is aiming to develop a multi-modality and inter-modality policy while fostering the governance between different stakeholders. To improve access to sustainable transport modes, Algeria will have to meet the following challenges:

- Improvement of linkage between planning and transport organization, in one hand, and urban planning and the land-use plan, in the other hand;
- Reinforcement of the urban and suburban rails network in all the big cities;
- Development and promotion of the green modes (cycling, walking) through appropriate policies of investment and communication;
- Development of innovative policy, in the field of communication, in order to promote car-pooling;
- Pursuit of the improving of service quality in public transports; especially as regards accessibility, by allowing the inter-modality and achieving the establishment of integrated pricing;
- Diversification of the offer throughout the creation of lanes for busses and the opening of BRT lines;
- Increasing the number of gas-fuelled vehicles for 25% of the vehicles stock.

**Conclusion**

Like all UN-Habitat member countries, Algeria has launched, a decade ago, its national policy of habitat on the basis of the consolidated directives of the Habitat Agenda and in accordance with the proceedings of the 2nd Conference Habitat II, held in Istanbul in 1996, which aims to ensure a descent and affordable housing to all social classes.

In favor to different plans of development, Algeria eliminated its urban deficit in order to reach a level of urbanization identical to the world average. In fact, since independence, Algeria built more than 5 million housing units, improving thus the living conditions for population as well as the rate of occupancy per unit of housing that went up from seven (07) persons in 1977 to five (05) persons in 2013.

The 2015-2019 program, which aims at building 2 million housing units, foresees the creation of integrated towns and the reception of the new cities of Sidi Abdellah and Bouinane.
(Algiers suburb) and of Boughzoul, Hassi Messaoud and Menea (development of high-lands and southern region of the country). These projects fall within the scope of the sustainable city, the elimination of precarious housing, the handling of urban growth, and the fight against the phenomenon of populating the coastline and space imbalance.

Although Algeria has achieved since two decades notable progress as regards supplying population with descent housing, allowing it to reach a rate of housing occupancy in line with the international standards, many challenges in the field of habitat remain unsolvable.

In fact, Algeria is facing many challenges and major obstacles related to natural risks (earthquake, floods and desertification), scarcity of water resources, vastness and morphological and climatic diversity of the territory.

The National Scheme of Land Planning affirms the State’s willingness to rebalance the territory and subscribe in the global situation aiming at the best use of these resources for sustainable development.

Within this framework, the national strategy of the city, in progress, aims at improving the urban issue and gathering suitable conditions for sustainable, attractive, functional and resilient city throughout the following actions:

- Harmonizing and adapting the legal framework related to the management and promotion of the city and setting up a more shared partnership organization of management,
- Reducing territorial inequalities through the development of social fusion and the elaboration of a policy of administrative, financial and social solidarity among local communities,
- Ending the deterioration of urban plan and improving the living and services quality offered to citizens, by suggesting solutions to problems specific to each city or town (preservation of public spaces, cultural centers, security and serenity, sanitation and cleanness and closer relations with citizens).
- This step will contribute to the unification of the city and eradication of social inequalities throughout the installation of administrations, public services, urban equipments dedicated to culture, entertainment and sports,
- Promoting an urban economy based on modern standards that should permit to cities to regularly meet the social and economic demand being more and more important and diversified;
- Combating informal economy in the urban milieu. There is a real relation of cause-effect between the informal sector and urban disadvantages,
- Drawing up an attractive image of the city, for citizens, enterprises and tourists and positioning oneself in a competitive environment in relation to other cities,
- Promoting authenticity of each city, especially by renovating patrimony.

Finally, if the declaration of Istanbul (Habitat II, 1996) retained that cities are centers of civilizations, factors for economic development and social, cultural, moral and scientific progress, the next declaration (2016) should make sure that cities become places where humankinds live and progress in dignity, health, security, happiness and hope.
## Indicators

### Table 1: Distribution of population according to type of construction and sex census 1998 and 2008

#### GPHC 1998

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Sources: GPHC - 2008
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