



# HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK

## Habitat International Coalition

### The Habitat Agenda Commitments on Housing

This reference paper reviews the **specific principles and commitments** that States adopted in the Habitat Agenda<sup>1</sup> at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in 1996, to assist in their reconsideration before adoption of the new Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat III), to be held in Quito in October 2016.

For the Habitat III process and outcomes to be credible, it is crucial to assess implementation of the commitments of Habitat II, as promised in Habitat Agenda's section "G. Assessing Progress." Many of those commitments also remain the essential core for any new global agenda.

At the heart of the Habitat II achievements were: (1) an affirmation of the centrality of human rights, in particular the progressive realization of the human right to adequate housing in human settlements and (2) recognition of the principles of good governance in balanced rural and urban development. Those two pillars of the Habitat II Agenda are reflected in the Istanbul Declaration and Habitat II Agenda.

The commitments concerning housing are to be understood within the concept of human habitat, a concept the two relevant bi-decennial global policies established, first at Vancouver in 1976 (Habitat I) and, secondly, at Istanbul (Habitat II) in 1996. The concept of habitat is both urban and rural, involving a "regional and cross-sectoral approach to human settlements planning, which places emphasis on rural/urban linkages and treats villages and cities as two ends [points] of a human settlements continuum in a common ecosystem" (H2, para. 104).

At Habitat II (1996), states, including their various spheres of government, committed to principles and actions over the ensuing 20 years. Concerning housing, the Habitat Agenda recognizes in the preamble that:

"We recognize that access to safe and healthy shelter and basic services is essential to a person's physical, psychological, social and economic well-being and should be a fundamental part of our urgent actions for the more than one billion people without decent living conditions. Our objective is to achieve adequate shelter for all, especially the deprived urban and rural poor, through an enabling approach to the development and improvement of shelter that is environmentally sound" (H2:3); *and*: "The most serious problems confronting cities and towns and their inhabitants include spreading homelessness and expansion of squatter settlements, inadequate and deteriorating building stock, services and infrastructure, insecure land tenure, inadequate water supply and sanitation and an increasing vulnerability to disaster. (H2:8)

The Habitat II principles, commitments and action strategies related to **housing** are reproduced in the following sections. As mentioned above, these form criteria for the indispensable evaluation of Habitat II's implementation by governments and development agencies, in particular, UN-Habitat.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul (Turkey) 3-14 June 1996, Consulted on March 2016 [on line]: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G96/025/00/PDF/G9602500.pdf?OpenElement>

These reminders serve further as the minimum elements upon which to build a new Habitat Agenda, which we expect to address the new challenges facing human settlements in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with States and development actors committing to more-progressive development and far more-diligent implementation.

The document provides as well a list of the relevant obligations concerning housing that States have assumed in the Habitat agenda and the intervening period since Habitat II, jointly with other relevant documents forming part of the current minimum norms for human settlements development, administration and governance from human rights and housing perspective.

## **Habitat II Goals and Principles**

(W)e must address comprehensively, inter alia, (...) homelessness; lack of basic infrastructure and services; lack of adequate planning; and increased vulnerability to disasters; (ID:4)

As human beings are at the centre of our concern for sustainable development, they are the basis for our actions as in implementing the Habitat Agenda. (...)We shall intensify our efforts to eradicate poverty and discrimination, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and to provide for basic needs, (...) especially, adequate shelter for all; (ID:7)

We reaffirm our commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as provided for in international instruments. To that end, we shall seek the active participation of our public, private and non-governmental partners at all levels to ensure legal security of tenure, protection from discrimination and equal access to affordable, adequate housing for all persons and their families; (ID:8)

We shall work to expand the supply of affordable housing by enabling markets to perform efficiently and in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, enhancing access to land and credit and assisting those who are unable to participate in housing markets; (ID:9)

We, the States participating in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), are committed to a political, economic, environmental, ethical and spiritual vision of human settlements based on the principles of equality, solidarity, partnership, human dignity, respect and cooperation. We adopt the goals and principles of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world; (H2:25)

We reaffirm and are guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the full realization of the human rights set out in international instruments and in particular, in this context, the right to adequate housing as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and provided for in the International Covenant(ions) (...), taking into account that the right to adequate housing, as included in the above-mentioned international instruments, shall be realized progressively; (H2:26)

Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, have equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education and open spaces. In addition, such human settlements provide equal opportunity for a

productive and freely chosen livelihood; equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance, the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (H2:27)

We therefore commit ourselves to making particular efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social and economic conditions, including housing; (H2:36)

## **Habitat II Commitments and actions**

### **Adequate housing**

We reaffirm our commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as provided for in international instruments. In this context, we recognize an obligation by Governments to enable people to obtain shelter and to protect and improve dwellings and neighbourhoods. We commit ourselves to the goal of improving living and working conditions on an equitable and sustainable basis, so that everyone will have adequate shelter that is healthy, safe, secure, accessible and affordable and that includes basic services, facilities and amenities, and will enjoy freedom from discrimination in housing and legal security of tenure. We shall implement and promote this objective in a manner fully consistent with human rights standards; (39) (40c, l. k) (61)

Promoting locally available, appropriate, affordable, safe, efficient and environmentally sound construction methods and technologies in all countries, particularly in developing countries, at the local, national, regional and subregional levels that emphasize optimal use of local human resources and encourage energy-saving methods and are protective of human health; (40f)

Providing legal security of tenure and equal access to land to all people, including women and those living in poverty; and undertaking legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (40b) (72e) (119 i and l)

Ensuring transparent, comprehensive and accessible systems in transferring land rights and legal security of tenure; Promoting broad, non-discriminatory access to open, efficient, effective and appropriate housing financing for all people, including mobilizing innovative financial and other resources - public and private - for community development; (40 d, e)

Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for the homeless, displaced persons, indigenous people, women and children who are survivors of family violence, persons with disabilities, older persons, victims of natural and man-made disasters and people belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including temporary shelter and basic services for refugees; (40l)

Promoting, where appropriate, the upgrading of informal settlements and urban slums as an expedient measure and pragmatic solution to the urban shelter deficit; (43h)

Protecting and maintaining the historical, cultural and natural heritage, including traditional shelter and settlement patterns, as appropriate, of indigenous and other people, as well as landscapes and urban flora and fauna in open and green spaces; Developing housing that can serve as a functional workplace for women and men; (43 r and cc)

Providing effective protection from forced evictions that are contrary to the law, taking human rights into consideration and bearing in mind that homeless people should not be penalized for their status; (61b) (40n)

To facilitate access to housing for those not served by existing finance mechanisms, Governments should review and rationalize, where appropriate, systems of subsidies through policies that will ensure their viability, equity and transparency, thus allowing many people without access to credit and land to enter the market; (83) (97a)

Promote systems of public transport that are affordable and accessible in order to make a wider range of housing and jobs available to vulnerable groups; (96 f) Provide increased coverage of water supply and sanitation services to ensure that vulnerable and disadvantaged groups have access to adequate quantities of safe water and to hygienic sanitation; (96h)

Strive to provide special living facilities and shelter solutions for people belonging to vulnerable groups, as appropriate, such as shelters for women subjected to violence, or shared living arrangements for persons with mental or physical disabilities; (97c)

Stimulate rural development by enhancing employment opportunities, providing educational and health facilities and services, improving housing, strengthening technical infrastructure and encouraging rural enterprises and sustainable agriculture; (168a)

### **Shelter policies and management**

Ensuring consistency and coordination of macroeconomic and shelter policies and strategies as a social priority within the framework of national development programmes and urban policies in order to support resource mobilization, employment generation, poverty eradication and social integration; Designing and implementing standards that provide accessibility also to persons with disabilities in accordance with the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; (40 a, g)

Increasing the supply of affordable housing, including through encouraging and promoting affordable home ownership and increasing the supply of affordable rental, communal, cooperative and other housing through partnerships among public, private and community initiatives, creating and promoting market-based incentives while giving due respect to the rights and obligations of both tenants and owners; (40 h) (61 c and d)

Eradicating and ensuring legal protection from discrimination in access to shelter and basic services, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status; similar protection should be ensured against discrimination on the grounds of disability or age; Protecting, within the national context, the legal traditional rights of indigenous people to land and other resources, as well as strengthening of land management; (40 j and m)

Integrating urban planning and management in relation to housing, transport, employment opportunities, environmental conditions and community facilities; (43c)

Promoting institutional and legal enabling frameworks at the national, subnational and local levels for mobilizing financial resources for sustainable shelter and human settlements development; (45j)

Providing, in the matter of housing, that the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status; (61a) (117a)

Strengthen the linkages between shelter policies, employment generation, environmental protection, preservation of cultural heritage, resource mobilization and the maximization of resource efficiency, and strengthen the stimulation of and support for sustainable economic development and social development activities; Apply public policies, including expenditure, taxation, monetary and planning policies, to stimulate sustainable shelter markets and land development; Integrate land and shelter policies with policies for reducing poverty and creating jobs, for environmental protection, for preservation of cultural heritage, for education and health, for providing clean water-supply and sanitation facilities, and for empowering those belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, particularly people without shelter; Periodically evaluate and, as appropriate, revise shelter policies, taking into consideration the needs of people without shelter and the impact of such policies on the environment, economic development and social welfare; (67c, d, e and g)

Establish appropriate processes for coordination and decentralization that define clear local-level rights and responsibilities within the policy development process; Develop and support adequate institutional frameworks, especially for facilitating investment in the supply of both rural and urban shelter by the private sector; Consider establishing priorities for the allocation of natural, human, technical and financial resources; Establish and adopt a regulatory framework, and provide institutional support for facilitating participation and partnership arrangements at all levels; Review and adjust, when necessary, the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework to respond to the special needs of people living in poverty and low-income people; Promote the supply of affordable rental houses and the legal rights and obligations of both tenants and owners; (68 b-g) (66)

Coordinate and integrate shelter and human settlements policies with other related policies, such as population and human resource development policies, environment, cultural, land and infrastructure policies, and urban and rural planning, as well as private and/or public employment initiatives; Adopt policies ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to new public buildings and facilities, public housing and public transport systems. Furthermore, during renovation of existing buildings, similar measures should be adopted whenever feasible; Encourage the development of environmentally sound and affordable construction methods and the production and distribution of building materials, including strengthening the indigenous building materials industry, based as far as possible on locally available resources; (69 a, c-d) (121b)

With adequate attention to safety needs, reformulate and adopt building standards and by-laws, where appropriate, to promote and permit the use of low-cost building materials in housing schemes, and use such materials in public construction works; (91d)

Review and revise legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks that act as barriers within the shelter sectors; Support, through legislation, incentives and other means, where appropriate, organizations of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups so that they may promote their interests and become involved in local and national economic, social and political decision-making; Establish laws and regulations aimed at preventing discrimination and barriers and, where such laws and regulations already exist, ensure their enforcement; Work with private sector cooperatives, local communities and other interested parties to raise awareness of the need to eliminate prejudice and discrimination in housing transactions and the provision of services; Consider becoming parties to the relevant instruments of the United

Nations system that, inter alia, deal with the specific and special needs of those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; (96 a-e)

Establish, as appropriate, legal frameworks to facilitate the development and implementation, at the national, subnational and local levels, of public plans and policies for (...) housing and the improved management of urban growth; Promote (...) housing and industrial siting initiatives that discourage the siting of hazardous industrial facilities in residential areas; Prevent or minimize pollution and exposure to pollution from industrial facilities, while also promoting urban planning, housing and industrial siting initiatives that discourage the disproportionate siting of polluting industrial facilities in areas inhabited by people living in poverty or those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; Develop and support the implementation of improved land-management practices that deal comprehensively with competing urban land requirements for housing, industry, commerce, infrastructure, transport, green spaces and forested areas, taking into account the need for spaces for everyday activities - for playgrounds, parks, sports and recreation areas and areas suitable for gardening and urban agriculture; (113a, f-h)

Formulate and implement human settlements development policies that ensure equal access to and maintenance of basic services, including those related to the provision of food security; education; employment and livelihood; basic health care services; safe drinking water and sanitation; adequate shelter; and access to open and green spaces, giving priority to the needs and rights of women and children, who often bear the greatest burden of poverty; (116a)

Identify and support approaches to cope with the urgent shelter requirements of returnees and internally displaced persons, including as appropriate, the construction of temporary housing with basic facilities, taking into account gender-specific needs; (176g)

### **Financing housing and delivery systems**

Stimulating national and local economies through promoting economic development, social development and environmental protection that will attract domestic and international financial resources and private investment, generate employment and increase revenues, providing a stronger financial base to support adequate shelter; (48a)

Constantly monitor the impact of macroeconomic policies on shelter delivery systems, considering their specific linkages and taking into account their possible effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; (67b)

Adopt an enabling approach to shelter development, including the renovation, rehabilitation, upgrading and strengthening of the existing housing stock in both rural and urban areas; Establish priorities for the allocation of natural, human, technical and financial resources; Develop adequate institutional frameworks for the public, community and private sectors, especially for facilitating investments in the supply of both rural and urban shelter by the private and non-profit sectors; When necessary, review and adjust the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework to respond to the special needs of those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, in particular, people living in poverty and low-income people; Periodically evaluate and, as necessary, revise policies and systems for financing shelter, taking into consideration the impact of such policies and systems on the environment, economic development and social welfare, especially their different effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; Promote and adopt, where appropriate, policies that coordinate and encourage the adequate supply of the key inputs required for the construction of housing and infrastructure, such as land, finance and building materials; Encourage the development of environmentally sound and affordable construction methods and the

production and distribution of building materials, including strengthening the local building materials industry, based as far as possible on locally available resources; Promote, in those countries where it may be appropriate, the use of labour-intensive construction and maintenance technologies that generate employment in the construction sector for the underemployed labour force found in most large cities, at the same time promoting the development of skills in the construction sector; (70 a-h)

Avoid inappropriate interventions that stifle supply and distort demand for housing and services, and periodically review and adjust legal, financial and regulatory frameworks, including frameworks for contracts, land use, building codes and standards; Employ mechanisms (for example, a body of law, a cadastre, rules for property valuation and others) for the clear definition of property rights; Permit the exchange of land and housing without undue restriction, and apply procedures that will make property transactions transparent and accountable in order to prevent corrupt practices; Apply appropriate fiscal measures, including taxation, to promote the adequate supply of housing and land; Periodically assess how best to satisfy the requirement for government intervention to meet the specific needs of people living in poverty and vulnerable groups for whom traditional market mechanisms fail to work; Develop, as appropriate, flexible instruments for the regulation of housing markets, including the rental market, taking into account the special needs of vulnerable groups; (72 b-d,f-h)

In order to mobilize more domestic and international resources for housing finance and extend credit to more households, it is necessary to integrate housing finance into the broader financial system and to use existing instruments or develop new instruments, as appropriate, to address the financial needs of people having limited or no access to credit; (80)

Adopt policies that increase the mobilization of housing finance and extend more credit to people living in poverty, while maintaining the solvency of credit systems; Strengthen the effectiveness of existing housing finance systems; Enhance the accessibility of housing finance systems and eradicate all forms of discrimination against borrowers; Promote transparency, accountability and ethical practices in financial transactions through support from effective legal and regulatory frameworks; Establish, where necessary, a comprehensive and detailed body of property law and property rights, and enforce foreclosure laws to facilitate private-sector participation; Encourage the private sector to mobilize resources to meet varying housing demands, including rental housing, maintenance and rehabilitation; Support the competitiveness of mortgage markets and, where appropriate, facilitate the development of secondary markets and securitization; Decentralize, as appropriate, the lending operations of mortgage markets and encourage the private sector to do the same in order to provide greater physical access to credit, especially in rural areas; Encourage all lending institutions to improve their management and the efficiency of their operations; Encourage community mortgage programmes that are accessible to people living in poverty, especially women, in order to increase their productive capacity by providing them with access to capital, resources, credit, land, technology and information so that they can raise their income and improve their living conditions and status within the household; (81 a-j)

Promote an adequate supply of affordable housing for all; (142c)

Promote the integrated functioning of housing markets so as to avoid segregation of the social housing sector; (162b)

Adopt macroeconomic policies and frameworks that encourage increased domestic savings and facilitate their use in housing, basic infrastructure and other aspects of the social and economic development of human settlements; Develop efficient, fair, equitable and buoyant sources of national

and local revenue, including taxation, user charges, tariffs and betterment levies, to promote national and local capacity for capital investment in housing, infrastructure and basic services, and devise, as appropriate, new fiscal instruments that penalize environmental damage from both production and consumption activities; (189 b-c)

Ensure that the benefits of global economic growth improve people's quality of life in all countries, whether they live in urban or rural areas; Mobilize national and international financial resources from all sources for shelter provision and sustainable human settlements development; Facilitate increased access by all levels of government and the private sector in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition to international financial resources so as to enable them to attract investment in shelter and infrastructure for sustainable human settlements development; In a manner consistent with national legislation, strive to promote the ability of local authorities, the private sector and relevant organizations to link with global capital markets and to have access to financial markets, in accordance with prudent safeguards in those markets as well as national monetary policies, in order to finance shelter and infrastructure programmes, mechanisms and instruments to facilitate risk-sharing and credit enhancement; Encourage the adoption of policies for the creation and development of the private sector and promote strategies for substantial and well-directed public and private investment in the construction and development of shelter, infrastructure, health, education and other basic services (...); Facilitate access to international financial resources for all developing countries, particularly those in Africa and the least developed countries, so that they may benefit from the growing international financial markets in order to promote investments in shelter, including social housing, and infrastructure for sustainable human settlements; Facilitate access to growing international financial markets for countries with economies in transition in order to promote investments and to support the implementation of housing reforms as part of the realization of the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in those countries; (202 a-e, h-i)

### **Social production**

Promote self-built housing within the context of a comprehensive land-use policy; Integrate and regularize self-built housing, especially through appropriate land registration programmes, as a holistic part of the overall housing and infrastructure system in urban and rural areas, subject to a comprehensive land-use policy; Encourage efforts to improve existing self-built housing through better access to housing resources, including land, finance and building materials; Develop the means and methods to improve the standards of self-built housing; Encourage community-based and non-governmental organizations in their role of assisting and facilitating the production of self-built housing; Facilitate regular dialogue and gender-sensitive participation of the various actors involved in housing production at all levels and stages of decision-making; Mitigate the problems related to spontaneous human settlements through programmes and policies that anticipate unplanned settlements; (74 a-g) (98c)

Reviewing and adjusting legal and regulatory frameworks in order to recognize and stimulate the diverse forms of organization of the population engaged in the production and management of land, housing and services; Considering financial systems that recognize organizations as credit holders, extend credit to collective units backed by collective collateral and introduce financial procedures that are adapted to the needs of housing production by the people themselves and to the modalities through which the population generates income and savings; Supporting the capacity-building and accumulation of experience of non-governmental organizations and peoples' organizations in order to make them efficient and competent partners in the implementation of national housing plans of action; (79 fi, ii, iv)

Harness the potential of non-traditional financing arrangements by encouraging communities to form housing and multi-purpose community development cooperatives, especially for the provision of low-cost housing; Review and strengthen the legal and regulatory framework and institutional base for mobilizing non-traditional lenders; Encourage, in particular by removing legal and administrative obstacles, the expansion of savings and credit cooperatives, credit unions, cooperative banks, cooperative insurance enterprises and other non-bank financial institutions, and establish savings mechanisms in the informal sector, particularly for women; Support partnerships between such cooperative institutions and public and other financing institutions as an effective means of mobilizing local capital and applying it to local entrepreneurial and community activity for housing and infrastructure development; Facilitate the efforts of trade unions, farmers', women's and consumers' organizations, organizations of people with disabilities and other associations of the populations concerned to set up their own cooperatively organized or local financial institutions and mechanisms; Promote the exchange of information on innovations in housing finance; Support non-governmental organizations and their capacity to foster the development, where appropriate, of small savings cooperatives; (82 a-g)

### **Participation and capacity development**

Facilitating participation by tenants in the management of public and community-based housing and by women and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the planning and implementation of urban and rural development; (45 m)

Establish and implement consultative mechanisms among the governmental authorities that are responsible for economic, environmental, social, human settlements and shelter policies, and the organization of civil society and the private sector so as to coordinate the shelter sector in a coherent manner, which should include identifying the market and precise criteria for allocations, subsidies and other forms of assistance; (67a)

Employ broad-based participatory and consultative mechanisms that involve representatives from public, private, non-governmental, cooperative and community sectors, including representatives of groups that are considered to be living in poverty, at all levels in the policy development process; (68 a)

Make use of contracts with community-based organizations and, where applicable, the informal sector for the planning, design, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of housing and local services, especially in low-income settlements, with an emphasis on enhancing the participation and, thus, short- and long-term gains of local communities; Provide training to professionals and practitioners in the construction and development sector to update their skills and knowledge in order to promote the development of shelter programmes that serve the interests and needs of women, persons with disabilities and disadvantaged groups and that ensure their participation at all stages of the shelter development process; (90 e and i)

Provide vulnerable and disadvantaged groups with access to information and with opportunities to participate in the local decision-making process on community and shelter issues that will affect them; (96g)

Work with the private and non-profit sectors, community-based organizations and other actors to provide adequate shelter for people belonging to vulnerable groups, making special efforts to remove all physical constraints to the independent living of persons with disabilities and of older persons; (97b)

Develop training programmes on disaster-resistant construction methods for designers, contractors and builders. Some programmes should be directed particularly towards small enterprises, which build the great majority of housing and other small buildings in the developing countries; (172f)

#### **Data and research**

Ensuring the availability of education for all and supporting research aimed at building local capacity that promotes adequate shelter for all (...), given that the challenges make it necessary to increase the application of science and technology to problems related to human settlements; (45l)

Strengthen shelter-related information systems, and make use of relevant research activities in policy development, including gender-disaggregated data; (67f)

Promote the free exchange of information on the entire range of the environmental health aspects of construction, including the development and dissemination of databases on the adverse environmental effects of building materials, through the collaborative efforts of the private and public sectors; (69e)

Assess housing supply and demand on a gender-disaggregated basis and collect, analyse and disseminate information about housing markets and other delivery mechanisms, and encourage the private and non-profit sectors and the media to do the same, while avoiding duplication of efforts; (72a)

The development of local capacity to define needs and undertake or commission applied research, particularly with regard to age and gender-sensitive analysis, social and environmental impact assessments, shelter strategy formulation, local economic growth and job creation, and to incorporate the findings in management systems; (184ciii)

Promote research on economic, social and environmental aspects related to (...) shelter development, focusing on research priorities identified on the basis of national requirements and the need for systematic monitoring and assessment of development (...); Strengthen existing human settlements related information systems by adopting efficient and sustainable methodologies and institutional arrangements, by systematically incorporating research results and by compiling, analysing and updating data for human settlements and shelter statistics and policy-sensitive indicators; (193 a and b)

Encouraging the establishment or reinforcement, as appropriate, of global networks among all interested parties to facilitate the exchange of information on environmentally sound technologies, particularly those related to shelter and human settlements; Facilitating, developing and/or intensifying, as appropriate, technical cooperation with and among all regions, including South-South cooperation, in order to exchange experiences, particularly on best practices, foster the development of technology and technical skills and increase the efficiency of shelter and human settlements policies and management, with the backing of coordinated and complementary support from multilateral and bilateral arrangements; Placing special emphasis on the funding and promotion of applied research and the dissemination of the results thereof, and on innovation in all areas that could contribute to enhancing the capabilities of all developing countries, particularly those in Africa and the least developed countries, to provide shelter, basic services, infrastructure and amenities to their communities; (206 a, c and e)

Through global human settlements information networks, assist Governments at all levels, all major groups of actors and international development agencies in assessing gender-disaggregated information on the social and environmental impacts of policies, strategies, programmes and projects on sustainable human settlements development and the provision of shelter; (208b)

# International Norms related to Housing

## The International normative frameworks cited in the Habitat Agenda:

- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), [Charter of the United Nations](#), (1945)\*;
- UNGA, [The Universal Declaration on Human Rights](#), A/RES/3/217A, (1948)\*;
- UNGA, [International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), A/res/21/2200, (1966)\*\*;
- UNGA, [International Year of Shelter for the Homeless](#), A/res/37/221, (1987)†;
- UNGA, [Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000](#), A/res/43/181, (1988)†;
- [World Summit for Children](#), New York (USA), 29–30 September 1990:
  - [Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children](#)†
  - [Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration](#)†
- [United Nations Conference on Environment & Development](#), Rio de Janeiro (Brasil), 3–14 June 1992:
  - [Agenda 21](#)†
  - [Rio Declaration on Environment and Development](#)†
- [World Conference on Human Rights](#), Vienna (Austria) 14–25 June 1993:
  - [Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action](#)†
- [International Conference on Population and Development](#), Cairo (Egypt), 5–13 September 1994:
  - [Programme of Action](#)†
- [World Summit for Social Development](#), Copenhagen (Denmark), 6–12 March 1995:
  - [Copenhagen Declaration Social Development Declaration](#)†
  - [Programme of Action](#)†

## The international normative documents developed after the adoption of Habitat Agenda or not mentioned in the Habitat Agenda<sup>2</sup>:

- CESCR, [General Comment No. 4](#) on the right to adequate housing, (1992)\*\*;
- CERD, [General Recommendation No. 23](#) on the rights of indigenous peoples, (1997)\*\*;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 7](#) on the right to adequate housing: forced evictions, (1997)\*\*;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 9](#) on the domestic application of the covenant, (1998) \*\*;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 14](#) on the right to the highest attainable standard of health, (2000)\*\*;
- UNGA, [Declaration on Cities and Other human Settlements in the New Millennium](#), A/Res/S–25/2, (2001)†;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 15](#) on the right to water, (2002)\*\*;
- [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#), Johannesburg (South Africa), 26 August–4 September 2002:

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<sup>2</sup> This is an illustrative non-exhaustive compilation of international norms.

- [Johannesburg Declaration](#)<sup>†</sup>
- [Plan of Implementation](#)<sup>†</sup>
- CRC, [General Comment No. 4](#) on adolescent health and development in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2003\*\*;
- ECOSOC Commission on Human Rights, Final report of the Special Rapporteur: [Principles on housing and property restitution for refugees and displaced persons](#), (2005) †;
- ILC, [Draft Principles on the Allocation of Loss in the Case of Transboundary Harm arising out of Hazardous Activities](#), (2006)†;
- UNGA, [Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law](#), A/RES/60/147, (2006)†;
- Office of the United Nations for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), [Good Governance Practices for the Protection of Human Rights](#) (2007) †;
- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), [UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Displacement and Evictions](#), A/HRC/4/18, (2007)†;
- UNGA, [The Human Right to Water and Sanitation](#), A/RES/64/292, (2010)†;
- UNGA, [The Future We Want](#), A/RES/66/288, (2012)†;
- [World Human Rights Cities Forum](#), Gwanju (South Korea), 15–18 May 2014:
  - [Gwanju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City](#)<sup>†</sup>
- UN–Habitat, [International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning](#), Nairobi (2015)†;
- UNGA, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), A/RES/70/1, (2015)†;
- UNGA, Resolution on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, [S/RES/70/169](#) (2015)\*;
- UNGA, Resolution on Towards Comprehensive Cooperation among All Modes of Transport for Promoting Sustainable Multimodal Transit Corridors, [S/RES/70/197](#) (2015)\*;
- UNGA, Resolution on Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition, [S/RES/70/223](#) (2015)\*;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 23](#) on the right to just and favourable conditions of work (2016)\*\*;

**Key to symbols:**

\* = binding on all States; \*\* = binding on all States party to the relevant treaty; † = declaratory law as guidance for States and their governments to comply with general principles of international law and certain treaty–law requirements.