

HOUSING

in The City We Need

Barcelona Urban Thinkers Campus, a World Urban Campaign Event

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Key Issues and Recommendations

“Housing in the City We Need” is an essential element and a priority of the New Habitat Agenda that calls for a cross-sectoral, multisphere and integrated regional approaches to planning, production and governance of human settlements for all, without discrimination, leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first, enhancing democracy and human rights implementation. That challenge, within its diverse contexts, continues to call for an approach promised in the Habitat Agendas in 1976 and 1996. A review, evaluation, renewal and further development of those commitments form indispensable steps in the Habitat III process, whereby current and emerging economic, social, peace-and-security and environmental conditions pose new and pressing challenges.

This UTC has built on the assets of foregoing Habitat Agendas, more-recent normative development, lessons learned and the cumulative expertise of multistakeholder and cross-generational participants to affirm principles and propose actions for the current Habitat III process. The rich inputs and outcomes of the UTC deliberations have produced a common set of principles and operational recommendations for the New Habitat Agenda:

- Participatory, democratic, multisector and integral territorial/regional planning and governance that links and integrates towns, villages, cities and other human settlements across regions within common ecosystems,¹ recognizing habitat’s urban and rural scope².
- Respect, protection and fulfillment of the human right to adequate housing, including its judiciability (as a function of human rights treaty obligations), in international cooperation and extraterritorial relations.
- The promotion of a continuum of legitimate tenure arrangements (collective and individual, customary, perceived or formally registered) that involve legal protection against forced evictions, dispossession, destruction and other violations, not prioritizing private ownership as the only or best option.
- The urgently needed intervention of states in land markets, implementing human rights principles to fulfill the social function of land, housing and property, mitigate speculation,

protect the tenure of vulnerable groups and ensure affordability of adequate housing; and of authorities to anticipate future needs of adequate land for both social housing and socially produced habitat (including through cooperatives, community associations and other civil society organizations).

- Renewing and monitoring commitments to land-value sharing that involves the development/consolidation of public, open and transparent integrated cadasters, assessing values to be captured and transferred to the community (for social housing and community infrastructure), inter alia through incremental taxation of empty units/plots, recovering the unearned increment resulting from changes in use, or public investment or decisions, or due to the general growth of the community,³ adopting and implementing traditional and innovative instruments (i.e., mandatory percentages of social and low-income housing, regulated zoning, etc.).⁴
- Renewal of standing Habitat Agenda commitments to combat homelessness and state-supported social production of habitat (SSSPH),⁵ implementing public policies that guarantee appropriate access to land, adequate financing schemes and technical assistance.
- Land and housing policies should reduce social inequality and spatial segregation, considering the provision of spaces for productive and creative activities and supporting social and solidarity-economy initiatives.
- Reaffirming obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the constituent human rights in the implementation of “The Right to the City,” including the human rights (dimensions of) land, energy, transport, urban planning and the social function of the city, as a social claim in a process of an emerging composite right.
- Nondiscrimination on any arbitrary basis, including geographical, civil, migration or tenure status; The requirements of broad social and community-wide participation and meaningful consultation as well as free, prior and informed consent (FPIC); reparation for human rights violations; public-popular partnerships, in addition to public-private partnerships; prohibition, criminalization and prosecution of forced evictions. A renewed commitment to combat homelessness;
- Respect, protection and fulfillment of the human right to adequate housing in international cooperation and extraterritorial relations;
- Every state has the obligation to ensure the judiciability of the human right to adequate housing (as a function of human rights treaty obligations);
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- Nondiscrimination on any arbitrary basis, including geographical, civil, migration or tenure status.
- The home and the neighborhood are the locus of practicing full citizenship; they bring stakeholders’ (inhabitants? the opportunity to fulfill human rights as well as) social, civic and environmental responsibilities toward the habitat they occupy.

- The commitments of the Habitat Agenda require targets, indicators, and the definition of participatory monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms for states (all spheres and sectors of government) and UN agencies.
- Habitat III has a key role in filling the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda gaps in specifying habitat indicators, including the respect, protection and fulfilment of tenure security for adequate housing, paying particular attention to priority contexts such as colonial and foreign occupation⁸.
- The home and the neighborhood are the locus of practicing full citizenship; every house and every group of houses we build bring stakeholders' social, civic and environmental responsibilities toward the habitat they occupy.

Endnotes:

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- ¹ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, A/RES/61/295, 2 October 2007. The Declaration provides that: "Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return" (Article 10); "Indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems," 9.9, *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (Tenure Guidelines)*, endorsed by the Committee on Global Food Security (CFS), Thirty-eighth (Special) Session, 11 May 2012, at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>.
- ² Istanbul Declaration, op. cit., paras. 6 and 10; The Habitat Agenda, op. cit., paras. 46(d), 68, 68(c), 70(a), 70(c), 75, 79(m), 104, 113(a–n) and 114.
- ³ The Vancouver Action Plan, D: Land, preamble, para. 5.
- ⁴ The Habitat Agenda, op. cit., para. 76(h).
- ⁵ VAP, C. Shelter, infrastructure and services, preamble, para. 5; D: "Land," preamble, para. 3; H2, para. 76(h).
- ⁸ "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," Introduction, para. 34, without corresponding goals or targets, at: http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf.