

# Gender and The Habitat Agenda



## Engendering Our Human Settlements



A guide booklet to paragraphs touching gender  
and women's issues in The Habitat Agenda



Habitat II, as a Conference and process, had a great impact on the way we think about human settlements and the way we collaborate across sectors to ensure adequate housing and sustainable human settlements for all. It brought together more non-governmental and community based organisation representatives than any other previous UN Conference, where due to intensive lobbying, the primary role of women in human settlements development was strongly recognised.

Thousands of women went to Istanbul, many from the grassroots level, to seek deeper commitments from the international community to change the conditions that keep the majority of women powerless and poor. Presently, around 100 million people, mostly women and children, are homeless. Women constitute 70% of the world's 1.3 billion absolute poor and 50,000 women and their children die daily as a result of poor shelter, water and sanitation.

**Gender and the Habitat Agenda: Engendering Our Human Settlements** is an effort to highlight the commitments made by Governments and calls to action to all sectors in the area of women and shelter. It compiles paragraphs of the Habitat Agenda that touch directly on women and gender issues, and is accompanied by unofficial summaries in simpler language side by side.

This booklet will help readers navigate through the Habitat Agenda to find specific paragraphs bearing gender and women's concerns and directives for action. It can be used for creating awareness of Governments' commitments and responsibilities, lobbying for and creating partnerships with other sectors, developing indicators for monitoring implementation, learning about of non-governmental groups in implementation of the Habitat Agenda and advocating for a gender perspective in human settlements development.

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Cover photo: Women Members of Parliament rejoice after two gender sensitive Land Bills were finally passed in Parliament.  
Dodoma, Tanzania. February 1999

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## Acknowledgements

This booklet is the result of a large team effort. Many people contributed to this creation, and we would like to thank them for their contributions, we hope we have not left anyone out. Without them, this booklet would not be.

First, we would like to acknowledge the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), for our use of the official text of the Habitat Agenda.

We would like to acknowledge Habitat International Coalition, and specifically Ana Basurto, and the Women and Habitat Program of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and specifically Wandia Seaforth, for allowing us to use their compilations of paragraphs of the Habitat Agenda touching on gender and women's issues. They were used as a base for what you see here.

Many thanks go to all at Women Advancement Trust (WAT) who also assisted with the various drafts and provided much assistance at critical moments.

We are also indebted to the participants of the Anglophone Africa Regional Meeting of the Network that took place in February 1999, for their time in reviewing the draft booklet and sending us their anonymous comments, many of the changes from the draft to this final version are a product of that pre-testing.

Special thanks go to Mjsereor and Rooftops Canada for providing the funding for this project.

## Introduction

Habitat II was a world conference on human settlements organised by the United Nations, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from the 3rd to the 14th of June, 1996. This was 20 years after the first such conference was held in Vancouver in Canada in 1976. The Conference was attended by over 16,000 people, bringing together more representatives of non-governmental and community based organisations than any other previous UN Conference.

The two main themes of the Conference were:

1. adequate shelter for all
2. sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world

These themes were and are very relevant since it is currently said that some 100 million people, most of them women and children, are homeless. Overall, at least 600 million people live in shelters that are life or health threatening in cities in the developing world.

Women constitute seventy percent of the world's 1.3 billion absolute poor and 50,000 women and their children die daily as a result of poor shelter water and sanitation. Thousands of women went to Istanbul, many from the grassroots level, to seek deeper commitments from the international community to change the conditions that keep the majority of women powerless and poor.

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) and the HIC-Women and Shelter Network (HIC-WAS) played a big role both during the preparatory process towards the Habitat II Conference and during the Conference itself. The Huairou Commission, of which HIC - Women and Shelter Network is a member, played a very important role in engendering the Habitat Agenda. As a result of intensive lobbying by women, the primary role of

women in human settlements was strongly recognised and several clauses on gender and women were included in the Habitat Agenda.

Throughout and especially at the end of the Conference, people started thinking about implementation of the Agenda. Heads of States and Governments and official delegations made commitments to the objectives, principles and to the recommendations contained in the Habitat Agenda and pledged their mutual support for its implementation. In a parallel session, NGOs also made a commitment of contributing to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The Habitat Agenda is a global call to action at all levels. The document offers, within a framework of goals and principles and commitments, a positive vision of sustainable human settlements where all have adequate shelter, a healthy and safe environment, basic services and productive and freely chosen employment. The Habitat Agenda is a guide for all efforts geared to turning this vision into a reality.

Since the Habitat Agenda has several clauses on gender and women, the HIC-WAS Secretariat felt that it would be of benefit to put all such clauses together in one booklet for easy access and reference by all interested parties. The idea is to share in a focused manner, the commitments that have a direct relevance to actions in the thematic area of women and shelter.

The selection of the gender and women clauses from the Habitat Agenda was done by the HIC-WAS Secretariat with the assistance of the Women and Habitat Program of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements - Habitat and the Habitat International Coalition. The HIC - Women and Shelter Secretariat further felt that adding an unofficial summary in simpler language would make this compilation even more accessible.



We hope this booklet will help readers navigate through the Habitat Agenda to find specific paragraphs bearing gender and women's concerns and directives for action. We feel this booklet can be used as a tool for:

- ✓ creating awareness of governments' commitments and responsibilities
- ✓ lobbying and creating partnerships with local governments, central governments, agencies and the international community
- ✓ keeping governments accountable for their commitments
- ✓ advocating for projects and gender issues in human settlements development
- ✓ learning about the participation of NGOs, CBOs and women's groups participation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda
- ✓ developing indicators
- ✓ monitoring implementation

It is the intention of the Secretariat to make the booklet accessible to all interested government officials, people from non-governmental organisations, community based organisations, and activists at all levels but more so at the local level, so that it can be a useful tool in implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. That is why, the booklet will be published in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Kiswahili. This, the English version, is the first of the set.

It is our hope that all actors in the field of human settlements will find this booklet handy and easy to use.

**Tabitha Siwale, MP**  
Secretary -- HIC-WAS  
April, 1999

## How this Booklet is Arranged

Each page in each booklet is divided into two parts: the official text and the unofficial summary. The left, wider, column in all pages is that of the official text, while the right, narrower, column of all pages contains the unofficial summaries. The official text has been copied directly from the official version of the Habitat Agenda. The unofficial summaries were written especially for this compilation and attempt to provide a brief on each of the paragraphs listed in less technical language. Because some words or phrases were too important to change completely to non-technical language the same were used in the summaries. To compensate for this, we have, we also included a page with some definitions.

All paragraphs in the official text column have been numbered in a progressive order (1,2,3...) according to how they appear in this booklet. To provide you with easy access to its source, the Habitat Agenda, we have also included each paragraph's number from the Agenda in brackets. In the case of paragraphs with sub-paragraphs (a, b, c...) and sub-sub-paragraphs (i, ii, iii...) we have included the number also in the bracket, so that it becomes (165), (165b) and (165b ii)

All titles and subtitles of the Habitat Agenda were included whenever paragraphs from that section were selected for the compilation. Where no paragraphs from a section were selected, that section's title or subtitle was not included in this booklet.

None of the summaries were numbered, instead they are paired as accurately as possible given layout limitations to the paragraph it is summarizing. In the case of sub-paragraphs and sub-sub-paragraphs, the summaries were simply bulleted and indented and bulleted respectively.

## Some definitions

- **aggravating**: making a problem worse
- **civic engagement**: people from civil society acting and utilizing their freedoms, rights and responsibilities
- **civil society**: all people that are not government, sometimes also includes the private sector
- **disaggregated**: information that makes differences according to a specific thing. in the case of gender disaggregated data for house ownership, data may show the total number of house owners, but also how many of them are women, and how many are men
- **disproportionate**: when it is not divided in equal pieces, usually it is taken to mean the bigger piece
- **enablement**: a process in which one party provides another with the means, opportunities, legal capacity or power to do something
- **eradicate**: to eliminate completely by pulling up from the roots
- **framework**: a basic structure that holds ideas, processes, directions, etc.
- **harmonise**: to bring different things together into one line
- **holistic**: it is concerned with how the complete system works instead of each part by itself
- **indicator**: a set of information that points to the state or existence of something
- **inhibited**: to discourage from free activity through psychological barriers or social controls
- **inter alia**: a Latin phrase; it means 'among other things'
- **prerequisite**: something that is needed in order for something else to exist or begin
- **qualitative indicator**: measures the quality of something: what is the impact of distributing pamphlets to women, what is the importance training women, what is the impact of consultations with women, etc.
- **quantitative indicator**: measures the quantity of something: how many pamphlets have been made, how many women have been trained, how many times women have been consulted, etc.
- **sustainable**: it can be sustained or maintained in the future
- **tenure**: the act, right, manner, or term of holding something such as land or a position

## List of Abbreviations

- CBO: Community-Based Organization
  - HIC: Habitat International Coalition
  - HIC-WAS: Habitat International Coalition-Women and Shelter Network
  - MP: Member of Parliament
  - NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
  - UNCHS: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
  - WAT: Women Advancement Trust
  - WHP: Women and Habitat Program
- All titles and names of organizations and individuals mentioned in this booklet were checked for accuracy. Where no specific information was provided, the names were taken from the sources cited in the text. Where no specific information was provided, the names were taken from the sources cited in the text.

## Official Text

## Unofficial Summary

## Chapter I: Preamble

## Chapter I: Preamble

1. (4) As to the second theme, sustainable development of human settlements combines economic development, social development and environmental protection, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and offers a means of achieving a world of greater stability and peace built on ethical and spiritual vision. Democracy, respect for human rights, transparent, representative and accountable government and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are indispensable foundations for the realisation of sustainable development. The lack of development and the existence of widespread absolute poverty can inhibit the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and undermine fragile democracy and popular participation. Neither of them, however, can be invoked to justify violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Habitat Agenda is founded on democracy, good governance, and a strong civil society.

Sustainable development involves economic, social, environmental elements while fully respecting human rights and freedoms. Lack of development and poverty do not justify violations of human rights.

2. (11) More people than ever are living in absolute poverty and without adequate shelter. Inadequate shelter and homelessness are growing plights in many countries, threatening standards of health, security and even life itself. Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.

All persons have the right to adequate shelter and to the improvement of their living conditions.

3. (12) The rapidly increasing number of displaced persons, including refugees, other displaced persons in need of international protection and internally displaced persons, as a result of natural and human-made disasters in many regions of the world, is aggravating the shelter crisis, highlighting the need for a speedy solution to the problem on a durable basis.

4. (15) Women have an important role to play in the attainment of sustainable human settlements. Nevertheless, as a result of a number of factors, including the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women and discrimination against women, women face particular constraints in obtaining adequate shelter and in fully participating in decision-making related to sustainable human settlements. The empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in political, social and economic life, the improvement of health and the eradication of poverty are essential to achieving sustainable human settlements.

5. (17) Older persons are entitled to lead fulfilling and productive lives and should have opportunities for full participation in their communities and society, and in all decision-making regarding their well-being, especially their shelter needs. Their many contributions to the political, social and economic processes of human settlements should be recognised and valued. Special attention should be given to meeting the evolving housing and mobility needs in order to enable them to continue to lead rewarding lives in their communities.

Sustainable housing solutions are urgently needed for the increasing number of displaced persons.

Both women's empowerment and poverty eradication are essential in order to achieve sustainable human settlements.

Older people are entitled to participate fully, to be valued and their evolving needs to be considered in their communities.

## Official Text

6. (21) The Habitat Agenda is a global call to action at all levels. It offers, within a framework of goals and principles and commitments, a positive vision of sustainable human settlements - where all have adequate shelter, a healthy and safe environment, basic services and productive and freely chosen employment. The Habitat Agenda will guide all efforts to turn this vision into reality.

## Chapter II: Goals and Principles

7. (25) 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 quality, solidarity, partnership, human dignity, respect and co-operation. We adopt the goals and principles of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world. We believe that attaining these goals will promote a more stable and equitable world that is free from injustice and conflict and will contribute to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace. Civil, ethnic and religious strife, violations of human rights, alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation, economic imbalances, poverty, organised crime, terrorism in all its forms and corruption are destructive to

## Unofficial Summary

The Habitat Agenda calls for action and guides efforts on adequate shelter, healthy and safe environments, basic services and employment for all.

## Chapter II: Goals and Principles

States commit themselves to a wholistic vision of human settlements. For this purpose, member states also commit themselves to cooperate for the promotion and reinforcement of safety, security and peace, and for the elimination of all forms of violence at local, national and international levels.

human settlements and should therefore be denounced and discouraged by all States, which should co-operate to achieve the elimination of such practices and all unilateral measures impeding social and economic development. At the national level we will reinforce peace by promoting tolerance, non-violence and respect for diversity and by settling disputes by peaceful means. At the local level, the prevention of crime and the promotion of sustainable communities are essential to the attainment of safe and secure societies. Crime prevention through social development is one crucial key to these goals. At the international level, we will promote international peace and security and make and support all efforts to settle international disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

8. (26) 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 realisation 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 of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, taking into account that the right to adequate housing, as included in the above-mentioned international instruments, shall be realised progressively. We reaffirm that all human rights - civil, cultural, eco-

States reaffirm their commitment to the human right to adequate housing for all as set in previously signed international instruments. States also reaffirm that all human rights are universal and interrelated and they subscribe to the goals and principles of the Habitat Agenda.



economic, political and social - are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. We subscribe to the principles and goals set out below to guide us in our actions.

9. (27) 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; equal opportunity for personal, spiritual, religious, cultural and social development; equal opportunity for participation in public decision-making; equal rights and obligations with regard to the conservation and use of natural and cultural resources; and equal access to mechanisms to ensure that rights are not violated. The empowerment of women and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, whether rural or urban, are fundamental to sustainable human settlements development.

10. (36) Human health and quality of life are at the centre of the effort to develop sustainable human settlements. We therefore commit ourselves to promoting and attaining the goals of universal of equal access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and

In equitable human settlements all people have equal access to resources, services and opportunities to employment, inheritance, ownership, credit, personal development, and decision making.

All people have equal obligations, rights and access to systems to ensure their rights are not violated.

Women's empowerment and equal participation is fundamental in human settlements development.

States commit themselves to universal and equal access to quality education, and to the



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environmental health, and the equal access of all to primary health care, making particular efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social and economic conditions, including housing, without distinction as to race, national origin, gender, age or disability, respecting and promoting our common and particular cultures. Good health throughout the life-span of every man and woman, good health for every child, and quality education for all the fundamental to ensuring that people of all ages are able to develop their full capacities in health and dignity and to participate fully in the social, economic and political processes of human settlements, thus contributing, *inter alia*, to the eradication of poverty. Sustainable human settlements depend on the interactive development of policies and concrete actions to provide access to food and nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation, and universal access to the widest range of primary health-care services, consistent with the report of the International Conference on Population and Development; to eradicate major diseases that take a heavy toll of human lives, particularly childhood diseases; to create safe places to work and live; and to protect the environment.

highest health standard. Good health and quality education contributes to people's full participation and poverty eradication.

Sustainable human settlements depend on policies and actions that provide access to good nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation, primary health care, and that eradicate major diseases, create safe living and working places and protect the environment.

**Chapter III: Commitments**

**Chapter III:  
Commitments**

b  
11. (38) In implementing these commitments, special attention should be given to the circumstances and needs of people living in poverty, people who are homeless, women, older people, indigenous people,

People living in poverty, people who are homeless, women, older people, indigenous

refugees, displaced persons, persons with disabilities and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Special consideration should also be given to the needs of migrants. Furthermore, special attention should be given to the specific needs and circumstances of children, particularly street children.

#### A. Adequate shelter for all

12. (39) We reaffirm our commitment to the full and progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing, as provided for in international instruments. In this context, we recognise 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.

13. (40) We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

14. (40b) Providing legal security of tenure and equal access to land to all people, including women and those living in poverty; and undertaking

people, refugee and displaced people, people with disabilities, migrants, children, and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups should receive special attention.

#### A. Adequate shelter for all

Sustainable human settlements should be realised in an equitable and sustainable manner, while being consistent with human rights standards.

States commit to:

- providing legal security of tenure and equal access to



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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.

15. (40c) Promoting access for all people to safe drinking water, sanitation and other basic services, facilities and amenities, especially for people living in poverty, women and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

16. (40f) 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 emphasise optimal use of local human resources and encourage energy-saving methods and are protective of human health;

17. (40i) 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;

land - including women and the poor. States commit to reforms that give women full and equal access to all economic resources:

- promoting access to safe drinking water, sanitation and basic services, specially for women, the poor, and vulnerable groups;
- promoting appropriate, affordable and safe construction methods using local resources, saving energy and protecting people's health;
- promoting shelter, basic services, education, health services, shelter for disadvantaged people, including temporary shelter for refugees.

## B. Sustainable human settlements

18. (43) We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

19. (43a) Promoting, as appropriate, socially integrated and accessible human settlements, including appropriate facilities for health and education, combating segregation and discriminatory and other exclusionary policies and practices, and recognising and respecting the rights of all, especially of women, children, persons with disabilities, people living in poverty and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

20. (43f) Implementing the social and development goals already agreed to by the international community in the areas of basic education, primary health care and gender equality;

21. (43w) Developing and evaluating policies and programmes to reduce the undesired adverse effects and improve the positive impact of structural adjustment and economic transition on sustainable human settlements development, especially on those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and women, *inter alia*, through reviewing the impact of structural adjustment on social development by means of gender-sensitive social impact assessments and other relevant methods;

## B. Sustainable human settlements

States commit to:

- promoting integrated accessible human settlements with health and education facilities, combating exclusion and discrimination and respecting the rights of all;

- implementing previously agreed social and development goals in education, primary health care and gender equality;

- reviewing structural adjustment, minimise its negative impact and maximise its positive impacts on human settlements, specially on women and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

- 19 22. (43cc) Developing housing that can serve as a functional workplace for women and men.

**C. Enablement and participation**

23. (45) We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:
24. (45d) Supporting progress and security for people and communities, whereby every member of society is enabled to satisfy his or her basic human needs and to realise his or her personal dignity, safety, creativity and life aspirations;
25. (45f) Promoting gender-sensitive institutional and legal frameworks and capacity-building at the national and local levels conducive and civic engagement and broad-based participation in human settlements development;
27. (45g) Institutionalising a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements development and management, based on a continuing dialogue among all actors involved in urban development (the public sector, the private sector and communities), especially women, persons with disabilities and indigenous people, including the interests of children and youth;

- developing housing that can also be a good workplace.

**C. Enablement and Participation**

States commit to:

- enabling people so they can satisfy their needs, dignity, safety, creativity, and aspirations;
- promoting gender sensitive frameworks, and capacity building to strengthen civil society;
- institutionalising participatory approaches and dialogues among all actors in urban development;

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- IV 29. (45h) Fostering capacity-building and training for human settlements planning, management and development at the national and local levels that includes education, training and institutional strengthening, especially for women and persons with disabilities

## D. Gender equality

- V 30. (46) We commit ourselves to the goal of gender equality in human settlement development. We further commit ourselves to:
- VI 31. (46a) Integrating gender perspectives in human settlements related legislation, policies, programmes and projects through the application of gender-sensitive analysis;
- VII 32. (46b) Developing conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating gender perspectives in human settlements planning, development and evaluation, including the development of indicators;
- VIII 33. (46c) Collecting, analysing and disseminating gender-disaggregated data and information on human settlements issues, including statistical means that recognise and make visible the unremunerated work of women, for use in policy and programme planning and implementation;

## Unofficial Summary

- encouraging technical capacity building and training, specially for women and people with disabilities.

## D. Gender equality

States commit to the goal of gender equality in human settlements and to:

- developing practical methods to integrate gender perspectives in human settlements development through gender sensitive analysis;
- working with gender disaggregated data on human settlements and use it in policy and program planning. Using data that recognizes women's unpaid work;

IX 34. (46d) Integrating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas;

! 15 35. (46e) Formulating and strengthening policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision-making.

### E. Financing shelter and human settlements

36. (48) We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

37. (48e) Promoting equal access to credit for all people.

### G. Assessing progress

38. (51) We commit ourselves to observing and implementing the Habitat Agenda as a guide for action within our countries and will monitor progress towards that goal. Quantitative and qualitative indicators at the national and local levels, which are disaggregated to reflect the diversity of our societies, are essential for planning, monitoring and evaluating progress towards the achievement of adequate shelter for all

- integrating a gender perspective in all aspects of housing production;

- promoting the full participation of women.

### E. Financing shelter and human settlements

States commit to:

- equal access to credit.

### G. Assessing Progress

States commit to qualitative and quantitative disaggregated indicators that are age and gender sensitive.



and sustainable human settlements. In this regard, the well-being of children is a critical indicator of a healthy society. Age and gender-sensitive indicators, disaggregated data and appropriate data-collection methods must be developed and used to monitor the impact of human settlements policies and practices on cities and communities, with special and continuous attention to the situation of those belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. We recognise the need for an integrated approach and concerted action to achieve the objective of adequate shelter for all and to sustainable human settlements development and will strive for co-ordinated implementation of international commitments and action programmes.

#### **Chapter IV: Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation**

##### **A. Introduction**

39. (57) Habitat II is one in an extraordinary series of world conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations over the past five years. All addressed important issues of people-centred sustainable development, including sustained economic growth and equity, for which

The well being of children is a critical indicator.

Age and gender sensitive indicators, disaggregated data and data collection must be used to monitor the impact of human settlements policies

#### **Chapter IV: Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation**

##### **A. Introduction**

Habitat II addressed people-centred sustainable development.

successful implementation requires action at all levels, particularly the local level. Strategies on social, economic, environmental, disaster reduction, population, disability and gender issues will have to be implemented in urban and rural areas - in particular, where the problems are acute and generate tension.

40. (59) The strategy of the global plan of action is based on enablement, transparency and participation. Under this strategy, government efforts are based on establishing legislative, institutional and financial frameworks that will enable the private sector, non-governmental organisations and community groups to fully contribute to the achievement of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development and enable all women and men to work with each other and in their communities with Governments at all levels to determine their future collectively, decide on priorities for action, identify and allocate resources fairly and build partnerships to achieve common goals. Enablement creates:

41. (59b) The conditions for women and men to exercise their individual rights and responsibilities equally and to engage their abilities effectively in activities that will improve and sustain their living environments;

The Plan's strategies on social, economic, environmental, disaster reduction, population, disability and gender issues are based on enablement, transparency and participation, and on building partnerships between people and the government.

Enablement creates equal and effective engagement of women and men.

## B. Adequate shelter for all

### 1. Introduction

42. (60) Adequate shelter means more than a roof over one's head. It also means adequate privacy; adequate space; physical accessibility; adequate security; security of tenure; structural stability and durability; adequate lighting, heating and ventilation; adequate basic infrastructure, such as water-supply, sanitation and waste-management facilities; suitable environmental quality and health-related factors; and adequate and accessible location with regard to work and basic facilities: all of which should be available at an affordable cost. Adequacy should be determined together with the people concerned, bearing in mind the prospect for gradual development. Adequacy often varies from country to country, since it depends on specific cultural, social, environmental and economic factors. Gender-specific and age-specific factors, such as the exposure of children and women to toxic substances, should be considered in this context.

43. (61) Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the right to adequate housing has been recognised as an important component of the right to an adequate standard of living. All Governments without exception have a responsibility in the shelter sector, as exemplified by their creation of ministries of housing or agencies, by their allocation of funds for the housing sector and by their

## B. Adequate shelter for all

### 1. Introduction

Adequate shelter is affordable, appropriate and comprehensive and takes into account gender, age, health and other specific factors.

Governments have a responsibility in the shelter sector and in the right to adequate housing.

policies, programmes and projects. The provision of adequate housing for everyone requires action not only by Governments, but by all sectors of society, including the private sector, non-governmental organisations, communities and local authorities, as well as by partner organisations and entities of the international community. Within the overall context of an enabling approach, Governments should take appropriate action in order to promote, protect and ensure the full and progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing. These actions include, but are not limited to:

44. (61a) 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.

45. (61b) Providing legal security of tenure and equal access to land for all, including women and those living in poverty, as well as 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 penalised for their status;

46. (63) A second fundamental objective of this chapter is to enable markets - the primary housing delivery mechanism - to perform their function with efficiency. Actions to achieve this objective and at the

Provision of adequate housing requires participation by all sectors of society.

Housing laws shall prohibit discrimination on any grounds.

Actions should ensure legal security of tenure, equal access to land for all and protection from forced evictions with attention to women, poor and homeless people.

Government should enable markets - the primary housing

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19 same-time contribute to social goals, including, where appropriate, market-based incentives and compensatory measures, are recommended. Further objectives and recommended actions address the components of shelter-delivery systems (land, finance, infrastructure and services, construction, building materials, maintenance and rehabilitation) in the private, community and public rental sectors, and ways of making them serve all people better. Finally, special attention is given to all those, including women, who are at considerable risk because they lack security of tenure or are inhibited from participation in shelter markets. Actions are recommended to reduce their vulnerability and enable them to obtain adequate shelter in a just and humane way.

## 2. Shelter policies

## ACTIONS:

47. (67) To integrate shelter policies with macroeconomic, social, demographic, environmental and cultural policies, Governments, as appropriate, should:
48. (67a) Strengthen shelter-related information systems, and make use of relevant research activities in policy development, including gender - disaggregated data;

delivery system-, to perform efficiently

Special attention should be given to people, including women, who lack security of tenure or are inhibited by the shelter market.

## 2. Shelter policies

## ACTIONS:

- To integrate shelter policies with other national policies, Governments should:
- strengthen shelter related information systems, including gender disaggregated data



### 3. Shelter delivery systems

### 3. Shelter delivery systems

#### (a) Enabling markets to work

#### (a) Enabling markets to work

49. (71) In many countries, markets serve as the primary housing delivery mechanism, hence their effectiveness and efficiency are important to the goal of sustainable development. It is the responsibility of Governments to create an enabling framework for a well-functioning housing market. The housing sector should be viewed as an integrating market in which trends in one segment affect performance in other segments. Government interventions are required to address the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups that are insufficiently served by markets.

Governments are responsible to enable a housing market framework and to intervene for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

#### ACTIONS:

#### ACTIONS:

51. (72) To ensure market efficiency, Governments at the appropriate levels and consistent with their legal authority should:

To ensure markets are efficient, Governments should:

YIV 52. (72a) 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;

- coordinate assessment of housing supply and demand on a gender disaggregated basis.

20 53. (72e) Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies;

22 (b) Facilitating community based production of housing

54. (73) In many countries, particularly developing countries, more than half the existing housing stock has been built by the owner-occupiers themselves, serving mainly the lower-income population. Self-built housing will continue to play a major role in the provision of housing into the distant future. Many countries are supporting self-built housing by regularising and upgrading programmes.

ACTIONS:

55. (74) To support the efforts of people, individually or collectively to produce shelter, Governments at the appropriate levels should, where appropriate:

XU 56. (74f) Facilitate regular dialogue and gender-sensitive participation of the various actors involved in housing production at all levels and stages of decision making;

● undertake reforms for women's equal and full access to economic resources.

b) Facilitating community based production of housing

Self-built housing will continue to play a large role in housing provision.

ACTIONS:

To support people's efforts, Governments should:

● facilitate gender sensitive dialogue and participation.

**(c) Ensuring access to land**

**c) Ensuring access to land**

21 57. (75) Access to land and legal security to tenure are strategic prerequisites for the provision of adequate shelter for all and for the development of sustainable human settlements affecting both urban and rural areas. It is also one way of breaking the vicious circle of poverty. Every Government must show a commitment to promoting the provision of an adequate supply of land in the context of sustainable land-use policies. While recognising the existence of different national laws and/or systems of land tenure, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should nevertheless strive to remove all possible obstacles that may hamper equitable access to land and ensure that equal rights of women and men related to land and property are protected under the law. The failure to adopt, at all levels, appropriate rural and urban land policies and land management practices remains a primary cause of inequity and poverty. It is also the cause of increased living costs, the occupation of hazard-prone land, environmental degradation and the increased vulnerability of urban and rural habitats, affecting all people, especially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, people living in poverty and low-income people.

Access to land and legal security of tenure are strategic prerequisites for provision of adequate shelter.

Governments should strive to remove barriers to equitable access to land and to protect women and men's equal rights to land and property.

Inappropriate rural and urban land policies and land management cause inequity and poverty.

**ACTIONS:**

**ACTIONS:**

58. (77) To promote efficiency land markets and the environmentally sustainable use of land, Governments at the appropriate levels should :

Government at appropriate levels should:



59. (77e) Review restrictive, exclusionary and costly legal and regulatory processes, planning systems, standards and development regulations.

22 60. (78) To eradicate legal and social barriers to the equal and equitable access to land, especially the access of women, people with disabilities and those belonging to vulnerable groups, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organisations, the co-operative sector and community based organisations, should :

61. (78a) Address the cultural, ethnic, religious, social and disability-based causes that result in the creation of barriers that lead to segregation and exclusion, *inter alia*, by encouraging education and training for peaceful conflict resolution;

23 62. (78b) Promote awareness campaigns, education and enabling practices regarding in particular, legal rights with respect to tenure, land ownership and inheritance for women, so as to overcome existing barriers;

24 63. (78c) Review legal and regulatory frameworks, adjusting them to the principles and commitments of the Global Plan of Action and ensuring that the equal rights of women and men are clearly specified and enforced;

- review land regulations to promote efficient land markets.

To eradicate barriers and promote equal access to land, especially of women, people with disabilities and vulnerable groups, all sectors should:

- address the creation of barriers through education and training;

- create awareness about tenure, ownership and inheritance for women;

- adjust legal and regulation frameworks to these commitments, ensure clarity of equal rights of men and women.

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XVI  
64. (78d) Develop regularisation programmes and formulate and implement such programmes and projects in consultation with the concerned population and organised groups, ensuring the full and equal participation of women and taking into account the needs differentiated by gender, age, disability and vulnerability;

- develop programs to ensure full participation of women accounting for needs according to gender, age, disability and vulnerability;

26  
65. (78e) Support, *inter alia*, community projects, policies and programmes that aim to remove all barriers to women's access to affordable housing, land and property ownership, economic resources, infrastructure and social services, and ensure the full participation of women in all decision-making processes, with particular regard to women in poverty, especially female heads of households and women who are sole providers for their families;

- support initiatives to remove barriers to women's access;

27  
66. (78f) Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies;

- undertake reforms for women's full and equal access to resources, inheritance and ownership of land;

28  
67. (78g) Promote mechanisms for the protection of women who risk losing their homes and properties when their husbands die.

- ensure protection of women risking loss of home and property upon death of husband.

68. (79) To facilitate access to land and security of tenure for all socio-economic groups, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

For access to land and security of tenure for all, Governments should:

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- 29 69. (79d) Promote measures to ensure that women have equal access to credit for buying, leasing or renting land, and equal protection for the legal security of tenure of such land;
70. (79f) Encourage, in particular, the participation of community and non-governmental organisations by :
71. (79f i) Reviewing and adjusting legal and regulatory frameworks in order to recognise and stimulate the diverse forms of organisations of the population engaged in the production and management of land, housing and services;
72. (79f ii) Considering financial systems that recognise organisations 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;
73. (79f iii) Developing and implementing complementary measures designed to enhance their capabilities, including, where appropriate, fiscal support, educational and training programmes, and technical assistance and funds in support of technological innovation;
74. (79f iv) Supporting the capacity-building and accumulation of experience of non-governmental organisations and peoples' organisations

- promote measures for women's equal access to credit to acquire land and equal protection of tenure
- encourage community and NGO participation by:
  - ♦ recognising diversity in human settlements development;
  - ♦ adapting financial procedures to the needs of people;
  - ♦ complementary measures to enhance their capabilities;
  - ♦ supporting initiatives that build the efficiency and competency of partners in national implementation;

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in order to make them efficient and competent partners in the implementation of national housing plans of action;

75. (79f v) Encouraging lending institutions to recognise that community-based organisations may act as guarantors for those who, because of poverty of discrimination, lack other sources of equity, giving particular attention to the needs of individual women.

**(d) Mobilising sources of finance**

## ACTIONS:

76. (82) To create new housing finance mechanisms, as necessary, Governments at the appropriate levels, should:

77. (82c) Encourage, in particular by removing legal and administrative obstacles, the expansion of savings and credit co-operatives, credit unions, co-operative banks, co-operative insurance enterprises and other non-bank financial institutions, and establish savings mechanisms in the informal sector, particularly for women;

78. (82e) Facilitate the efforts of trade unions, farmers, women's and consumers' organisations, organisations of people with disabilities and other associations of the populations concerned to set up their own co-operatively organised or local financial institutions and mechanisms;

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- encouraging lenders to recognise CBOs as loan guarantors, with special attention to the needs of women

**(d) Mobilising sources of finance**

## ACTIONS:

For housing finance, Governments should:

- remove obstacles for and encourage non-bank financial institutions and informal savings mechanisms, particularly for women;
- facilitate co-operative or local financial systems of people lacking access to conventional finance sources.

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**(e) Ensuring access to basic infrastructure and services.****ACTIONS:**

79. (86) To ensure more equitable provision of basic infrastructure and service delivery systems, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

33 80. (86b) Involve local communities, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities, in decision-making and in setting priorities for the provision of services;

34 81. (86g) Remove legal obstacles, including those related to security of tenure and credit, that deny women equal access to basic services;

**(f) Improving planning design, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation.****ACTIONS:**

82. (90) To respond effectively to the requirements for appropriate learning, design, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of shelter, infrastructure and other facilities, Governments at the appropriate levels should:

**(e) Ensuring access to basic infrastructure and services****ACTIONS:**

To ensure equitable basic infrastructure and delivery systems, Governments should:

- involve communities, especially women, in setting priorities and in decisions;

- remove legal obstacles that deny women equal access to basic services

**(f) Improving all aspects of housing.****ACTIONS:**

To respond to shelter requirements, Governments should:



35 83. (90d) Strengthen the capacities of training institutions and non-governmental organisations to increase and diversify the supply of skilled workers in construction and promote apprenticeship training, particularly for women.

36 84. (90i) 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;

#### 4. Vulnerable groups and people with special needs

85. (93) Vulnerability and disadvantage are often caused by marginalisation in and exclusion from the socio-economic mainstream and decision-making processes and the lack of access on an equal basis to resources and opportunities. If vulnerability and disadvantage are to be reduced, there is a need to improve and ensure access by those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to shelter, finance, infrastructure, basic social services, safety nets and decision making processes within national and international enabling environments. It is understood that not all those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are vulnerable and disadvantaged at all times. Vulnerability and disadvantage are mainly caused by circumstances, rather than inherent character-

- promote apprenticeships and strengthen the supply of skilled construction workers, particularly women;

- provide further training to professionals in construction to ensure attention to and participation of women, people with disabilities and disadvantaged groups.

#### 4. Vulnerable groups and people with special needs

It must be recognised that vulnerability and disadvantage are caused by circumstances and are not always the same. They are often caused by marginalisation and exclusion from the mainstream decision making proc-

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istics. Recognising that vulnerability and disadvantage are affected, *inter alia*, by conditions in the housing sector and the availability, enforcement and effectiveness of legal protection guaranteeing equal access to resources and opportunities, some members of certain groups are more likely to be vulnerable and experience disadvantage with regard to shelter and human settlements conditions. Those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are especially at risk when they have no security of tenure or where they lack basic services or face disproportionately adverse environmental and health impacts, or because they may be excluded, either inadvertently or deliberately, from the housing market and services.

37 86. (95) Inadequate shelter or lack of shelter contributes to a loss of dignity, security and health in the lives of refugees, other displaced persons in need of international protection and internally displaced persons. There is a need to strengthen the support for the international protection of and assistance to refugees, especially refugee women and children, who are particularly vulnerable.

## ACTIONS:

87. (96) To remove barriers and eradicate discrimination in the provision of shelter, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

esses and lack of equal access to resources and opportunities.

Inadequate or lack of shelter contributes to loss of dignity, security and health in refugees and displaced people. International protection of displaced and refugee people should be strengthened, specially for women and children.

## ACTIONS:

To remove barriers and eliminate discrimination, Governments should:

88. (96a) Review and revise legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks that act as barriers within the shelter sectors;

- revise frameworks that act as barriers in regards to shelter;

89. (96b) Support, through legislation, incentives and other means, where appropriate, organisations 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.

- support organisations of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in their path to full community participation;

90. (96c) Establish laws and regulations aimed at preventing discrimination and barriers and, where such laws and regulations already exist, ensure their enforcement;

- strengthen the legal prevention of discrimination;

91. (96d) Work with private sector co-operatives, 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;

- collaborate with civil society in raising awareness about the need to eliminate discrimination;

92. (96e) 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, such as the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members

- consider becoming part of previous international instruments that deal with the specific and special needs of those in vulnerable and disadvantaged groups



of Their Families, and abiding by the Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

93. (97) To provide for the shelter needs of those belonging to vulnerable groups, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

94. (97c) 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;

### C. Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world

#### 1. Introduction

95. (100) Given the magnitude of the challenges that human settlements pose, society must value and take advantage of the wisdom, knowledge and skills of every person. Sustainable human settlements development requires co-operative and complementary actions among interested parties. The mix of interested parties appropriate for participation may be different in each instance, depending on who has responsibility for or is affected by the topic being addressed. As a general

To provide for the shelter needs of vulnerable groups, Governments should:

- strive to provide creative shelter solutions for people in vulnerable groups, including shelters for women subjected to violence.

### (c) Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world

#### 1. Introduction

Sustainable human settlements are developed with the collaboration of all interested parties; though this group's composition is con-

40 matter, interested parties include women and men of all ages, Government at the appropriate level, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, business, labour and environmental organisations.

96. (103) At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the international community agreed on a set of objectives and actions aimed at promoting sustainable human settlements development. In chapter 7 of Agenda 21, the concept of an "enabling approach" in the human settlements sector was developed, whereby a partnership among the public, private and community sectors sought to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular people living in poverty in urban and rural areas. Particular emphasis was given to participation in the decision-making process by community groups, women, indigenous people, the elderly and people with disabilities. The local Agenda 21 framework emphasises the need for local authorities to work in co-operation with all interested parties, including individuals, social groups and the private sector, to promote and implement effective strategies for sustainable development.

textual, it includes women and men of all ages; governments, NGOs, CBOs, business, labour and environmental organisations.

The enabling approach as detailed in Local Agenda 21 emphasised partnerships among all interested, particularly government, non-government and civil society to promote and implement effective strategies. Special emphasis was given to participation in decision-making by community groups, women, indigenous people, the elderly and people with disabilities.

### 3. Social development: eradication of poverty, creation of productive employment and social integration.

97. (115) Promoting equitable, socially viable and stable human settlements is inextricably linked to eradicating poverty. The concerns of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty are shared by the international community, which also acknowledges the feminization of poverty. Poverty has various manifestations, including homelessness and inadequate housing. The eradication of poverty requires, *inter alia*, sound macroeconomic policies aimed at creating employment opportunities, equal and universal access to economic opportunities (and special efforts to facilitate such access for the disadvantaged); education and training that will promote sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work; and basic social services, including health facilities. However, there are no universal solutions that can be fairly applied. People living in poverty must be empowered through freely chosen participation in all aspects of political, economic and social life. Other key elements of a poverty eradication strategy include policies geared to reducing inequalities, increasing opportunities, improving and providing, as appropriate, access to resources, employment and income; promoting rural development and measures to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in rural areas; providing social protection for those who cannot support themselves; recognising the needs and skills of women; developing human resources; improving infrastructure,

### 3. Social development: eradication of poverty, creation of productive employment and social integration

Equitable, sustainable human settlements are tightly linked with eradicating poverty. This requires creating employment opportunities, equal access to economic opportunities, education and training and basic social services, policies that reduce inequalities, providing social protection and improving infrastructure. People living in poverty must be empowered through free and full participation.

40 including communication facilities, and making it more accessible; and promoting domestic policies for meeting the basic needs of all.

ACTIONS:

98. (116) To promote equal access to and fair and equitable provision of services in human settlements, Governments at the appropriate level, including local authorities, should:

43 99. (116a) 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.

44 100. (116b) Where appropriate, redirect public resources to encourage community-based management of services and infrastructure and promote the participation of the private sector and local residents, including people living in poverty, women, people with disabilities, indigenous people and members of disadvantaged groups, in the identification of public service needs, spatial planning and the design, provision and maintenance of urban infrastructure and open and green spaces.

ACTIONS:

To promote equal access and equitable provision of services, Governments should:

- create policies that ensure equal access to basic services.

- consider redirecting public resources to encourage community based management of services.

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101. (118) Urban and rural poverty and unemployment represent severe constraints for human settlements development. In order to combat poverty, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities in partnership with all relevant interested parties, including workers' and employers' organisations, should:

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102. (118a) Stimulate productive employment opportunities that generate income sufficient to achieve an adequate standard of living for all people, while ensuring equal employment opportunities and wage rates for women and encouraging the location of employment opportunities near and in the home, particularly for women living in poverty and people with disabilities;

47  
103. (118i) Promote and strengthen productive enterprises, including micro-enterprises and small-scale private and co-operative sector enterprises and expand market and other employment and training opportunities for women, men and youth including people with disabilities and, where appropriate, strengthen the linkages between the informal and formal sectors;

48  
104. (119) In order to promote gender-sensitive planning and management of human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in collaboration with women's groups and other interested parties, should:

To address poverty and unemployment, Governments should:

- stimulate employment opportunities while ensuring equal opportunities and wages for women and encouraging employment near home, specially for women and people with disabilities;

- promote and strengthen productive enterprises, and expand training opportunities for all.

To promote gender sensitive planning and management of human settlements Governments in collaboration with women's groups and others should:

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- 49 105. (119a) Adopt, where appropriate, by-laws, standards and norms and develop planning guidelines that take into consideration the needs and situations of women and men and girls and boys in relation to human settlements planning, development and decision making and in the provision of and access to basic services, including public transportation health and educational facilities;
- 50 106. (119b) Consider in the planning process the fact that women are often involved in the informal sector and use their homes for business or market activities;
- 51 107. (119c) Promote representative structures, while ensuring women's full and equal participation;
- 52 108. (119d) Develop policy guidelines and programmes that encourage and actively pursue the involvement of women's groups in all aspects of community development related to environmental infrastructure and the provision of basic urban services, and encourage women's own co-operatives, as well as their membership in other co-operatives;
- 53 109. (119e) Promote changes in attitudes, structures, policies, laws and other practices relating to gender in order to eliminate all obstacles to human dignity and equality in family and society and promote full and equal participation of women and men, including persons with disabilities, in social, economic and political life, including in the formulation,

- adopt guidelines which take into consideration women, men, girls and boys;
- consider women's involvement in the informal sector in planning processes;
- promote representative structures, ensuring women's participation;
- develop policy guidelines that pursue the involvement of women's groups;
- promote changes in attitudes, structures, policies, and laws;

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implementation and follow-up of public policies and programmes;

55 110. (119f) Foster economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women workers in both the formal and informal sectors and adopt specific measures to address women's unemployment, in particular their long-term unemployment;

56 111. (119g) Eliminate legal and customary barriers, where they exist, to women's equal access to and control of land and finance;

57 112. (119h) Promote equal access to all levels of education for girls and women;

58 113. (119i) Establish programmes that address the absolute poverty found among rural women, focusing on their need for adequate shelter and employment;

XVII 114. (119j) Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data, while ensuring that such statistics are collected, compiled, analysed and presented by age and sex; set up monitoring mechanisms in government structures; and integrate for results into mainstream policies for sustainable human settlements development;

59 115. (119k) Enhance community awareness of issues facing women living in poverty, the homeless, migrants, refugees, other displaced

- foster economic policies that positively impact the employment of women;

- eliminate legal and customary barriers to women's access to and control of land and finance;

- promote access to education for girls and women;

- establish programs that address the poverty of rural women;

- generate and utilise data that shows differences according to gender and age (disaggregated data);

- enhance awareness of issues facing women, home-

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60 women in need of international protection, and internally displaced  
61 women especially those issues related to physical and sexual abuse, and  
design appropriate community responses;

62 116. (119f) Ensure equal access to housing, land and public services in  
the urban and rural areas in line with the International Convention on the  
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

63 117. (120) In order to develop the full potential of young people and  
prepare them to take a responsible role in the development of human  
settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local  
authorities, in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental  
youth organizations, and other non-governmental organizations, as well  
as community-based organizations, should:

64 118. (120f) Eliminate the sexual and economic exploitation of young  
women and children, improving their quality of life and increasing their  
contribution to sustainable human settlements development.

119. (121) In order to promote disability sensitive planning and man-  
agement of human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels,  
including local authorities, should:

65 120. (121f) Prepare and disseminate disaggregated data presented by  
age, sex and work status, set up monitoring mechanisms in government

less people, migrants and  
refugees:

- ensure equal access to housing, land and public services

To develop the potential of young people and prepare them for a responsible role in human settlements development, Governments should:

- eliminate sexual and economic exploitation of young women and children.

To promote planning that is sensitive to people with disabilities, Governments should:

- prepare and disseminate data disaggregated by age,



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structures and integrate the results into mainstream policies for sustainable human settlements development;

121. (122) In order to promote the continuing progress of indigenous people and ensure their full participation in the development of the rural and urban areas in which they live, with full respect for their cultures, languages, traditions, education, social organizations and settlement patterns, Governments and leaders of indigenous communities, within the national context, should:

65 122. (122c) Integrate indigenous women, their perspectives and knowledge, on an equal basis with men, in decision-making regarding human settlements, including sustainable resource management and the development of policies and programmes for sustainable development, including, in particular, those designed to address and prevent environmental degradation of land;

123. (123) To prevent, reduce and eliminate violence and crime, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all interested parties, should:

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XVII 124. (123e) Enhance women's safety in communities through the promotion of a gender perspective in crime prevention policies and programmes by increasing in those responsible for implementing those policies the knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences

sex and work status.

To ensure the incorporation of indigenous people and full respect of their ways of life, Governments and leaders of indigenous communities should:

- integrate indigenous women on an equal basis with men in decision-making.

To eradicate violence and crime, Governments and other parties should:

- work to enhance women's safety by integrating a gender perspective within police forces;

62 and mechanisms of violence against women:

- 125. (123i) Encourage the establishment of programmes and projects based on voluntary participation, especially of children, youth and older persons, to prevent violence, including violence in the home, and crime;
- 126. (123j) Take concerted and urgent action to dismantle international and national sex trafficking networks.
- 127. (124) To protect vulnerable and disadvantaged people, Government at the appropriate levels, in partnership with all interested parties, should work together to :
- Y IV 128. (124a) Adopt integrated, transparent and gender-sensitive environmental, social and economic policies and programmes for distressed areas and areas characterised by social exclusion;
- 68 129. (124b) Facilitate the participation of local organisations, including elder councils, women's groups, people's movements, youth groups, children's groups and organisations of people with disabilities and other organisations based in the community, in the decision-making processes concerning social welfare programmes;

- encourage volunteer programs to prevent all violence;
  - work to dissolve all sex trafficking networks.
- To protect vulnerable and disadvantaged people, Governments should work in partnership to:
- adopt integrated, transparent policies;
  - facilitate the participation of local organisations.

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**4. Population and sustainable human settlements development.****4. Population and sustainable human settlements****ACTIONS:****ACTIONS:**

130. (127) In order to address population issues affecting human settlements and to fully integrate demographic concerns in to sustainable human settlements development policies, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities and other interested parties, should:

To address population issues affecting human settlements, Governments should:

131. (127b) Where necessary, set up or enhance databases, including *inter alia*, data disaggregated by gender and age, and conduct data collection and analysis to provide baseline information that can be used to better plan for population growth in cities, towns and villages;

- set up or enhance databases with gender disaggregated data that can be used for planning of population growth.

**5. Environmentally sustainable, healthy and liveable human settlements****5. Environmentally sustainable, healthy and liveable human settlements**

132. (130) Many pollution-related risks to health are particularly high in urban areas, as well as in low-income areas, because of higher concentrations of pollutants from, *inter alia*, industry, traffic, fumes from cooking and heating devices, over crowding and inadequate solid and liquid waste management. Environment risks in the home and the workplace may have a disproportionate impact on the health of women and children because of their different susceptibilities and rates of exposure to the toxic effects of various chemicals and given the nature of the tasks

Pollution related health risks are high in urban and low-income areas.

Environmental risks may have a disproportionate impact on

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that women frequently undertake. Environmental risks may also have a disproportionate impact on children.

the health of women and children.

ACTIONS:

ACTIONS:

133. (136) To improve the health and well-being of all people throughout their life span, particularly people living in poverty, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with other interested parties, should :

To improve the health and well being of all people, Governments in partnership with others, should:

71 134. (136c) Ensure adequate research to assess how and to what extent women and children are particularly susceptible or exposed to environmental degradation and hazards, including as necessary, research and data collection on specific groups of women and children, particularly 72 women with low incomes, indigenous women and women belonging to 73 minorities;

- ensure research to assess the extent to which women and children are susceptible to environmental degradation and hazards;

74 135. (136d) Improve shelter conditions so as to mitigate those health and safety risks, particularly risks to women, older persons, children and people with disabilities, that are associated with activities in the home;

- improve shelter conditions to mitigate risks associated with the home;

75 136. (136f) Develop and implement programmes to ensure universal access for women throughout their life span to a full range of affordable health care services, including those related to reproductive health care, which includes family planning and sexual health, consistent with the

- implement programs to ensure women's access to affordable health care services;

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report of the International Conference on Population and Development;

76 137. (136l) Promote safe and healthy workplace conditions for men and women.

- promote safe and healthy workplaces

138. (141) Meeting this challenge requires an integrated approach to water resources management that takes cognisance of the links between water, sanitation and health, between the economy and the environment, and between cities and their hinterland, and harmonises land-use planning and housing policies with water sector policies and ensures a comprehensive and coherent approach to setting and enforcing realistic standards. A strong political commitment, co-operation across disciplines and sectors and an active partnership of all interested parties is essential to integrated water resources management. To this end, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnership with other interested parties, should:

Meeting the challenge of securing a reliable water supply without negatively affecting future supplies requires an integrated approach to water resources management that recognises links, harmonises land use and housing policies, and ensures comprehensive approaches. To this end, Governments should:

77 139. (141k) Take into consideration the needs of women in making technological choices in respect of the level of and access to basic services;

- consider women's needs;

78 140. (141l) Ensure the full and equal participation of women in all decision-making relating to water resource conservation, management and technological choice.

- ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making relating to water

### 7. Sustainable transport and communication systems.

141. (147) Transport and communication systems are the key to the movement of goods, people, information and ideas, and to access to markets, employment, schools and other facilities and land use, both within cities and between cities, and in rural and other remote areas. The transportation sector is a major consumer of non-renewable energy and of land and is a major contributor to pollution, congestion and accidents. Integrated transport and land-use policy and planning can reduce the ill effects of current transport systems. People living in poverty, women, children, youth, older persons and people with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged by the lack of accessible, affordable, safe and efficient public transport systems.

### 9. Improving urban economies

#### ACTIONS:

142. (162) To alleviate the adverse impacts of measures for structural and economic transition, Governments at the appropriate levels, including, where appropriate, local authorities, should:

143. (162d) Review the impact on structural adjustment on social development by paying particular attention to gender-sensitive assessments;

### 7. Sustainable transport and communications systems

Integrated transport and land-use policies can reduce the bad effects of current transportation. People living in poverty, women, children, youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged by the lack of good public transport.

### 9. Improving urban economies

#### ACTIONS:

To soften the impact of economic restructuring, Governments should:

- review structural adjustment with gender sensitive indicators:

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144. (162e) Design policies to promote more equitable and enhanced access to income and resources;

- design policies to promote equal access to income and resources.

### 10. Balanced development of settlements in rural regions

### 10. Balanced development of settlements in rural regions

## ACTIONS:

## ACTIONS:

145. (166) To promote the utilization of new and improved technologies and appropriate traditional practices in rural settlements development, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in cooperation with the private sector, should:

To promote new and improved technologies, Government in partnership with farmers, and women should:

146. (166b) In co-operation with farmers' organisations, women's groups and other interested parties, promote research and the dissemination of research findings in traditional, new and improved technologies for, *inter alia*, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and agro-forestry.

- promote research on old and new technologies in farming and forestry.

### 11. Disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation capabilities:

### 11. Disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation capabilities

## ACTIONS:

## ACTIONS:

147. (172) In improving natural and human-made disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response, Governments at the appropriate

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levels, including local authorities, and in close consultation and cooperation with such entities as insurance companies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, organized communities, and the academic, health and scientific community, should:

81 148. (172b) Ensure the participation in disaster planning and management of all interested parties, including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities, in recognition of their particular vulnerability to human-made and natural disasters;

149. (176) In preparing for and implementing post-disaster relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and resettlement, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all interested parties, should:

150. (176g) 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;

82 151. (176j) Ensure that the particular needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups are considered in all communications, rescue efforts, relocation, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

To improve disaster prevention and response, Governments should:

- ensure the inclusion of all interested parties in disaster planning and management, especially those particularly vulnerable to disasters.

In relief work after disasters, Governments should:

- address urgent shelter requirements for displaced persons;

- identify approaches for the particular needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups.



## D. Capacity - building and institutional development

## D. Capacity - building and institutional development

### 1. Introduction

### 1. Introduction

152. (179) Empowerment and participation contribute to democracy and sustainable human settlements development. Policy formulation and implementation by Governments should be guided by the principles of accountability, transparency and broad-based public participation. Accountability and transparency are imperative in order to prevent corruption and ensure that the available resources are used to the benefit of all people. Each Government should ensure the right of all members of its society to take an active part in the affairs of the community in which they live, and ensure and encourage participation in policy-making at all levels.

Policy implementation should be guided by accountability, transparency, and public participation. Governments should ensure the right of all to participate in community affairs and policy making at all levels.

### 2. Decentralisation and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks

### 2. Decentralisation and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks

#### ACTIONS:

#### ACTIONS:

153. (180) To ensure effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/ networks, Governments at the appropriate levels, should:

To ensure effective decentralization, Governments should:

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154. (180g) Enhance the performance of local authorities by undertaking data collection, disaggregated by gender, age and income, and comparative analyses of, and by disseminating information on innovative practices in, the delivery, operation and maintenance, of public goods and services, in providing for the needs of their populations and in exploiting the fiscal and other potential of their cities;

155. (180l) Collect, analyse and disseminate, as appropriate, comparative data, disaggregated by gender, age and income, on the performance of local authorities in providing for the needs of their populations;

3. Popular participation and civic engagement

157. (181) Sustainable human settlements development requires the active engagement of civil society organisations, as well as the broad-based participation of all people. It equally requires responsive, transparent and accountable government at the local level. Civic engagement and responsible government both necessitate the establishment and strengthening of participatory mechanisms, including access to justice and community-based action planning, which will ensure that all voices are heard in identifying problems and priorities, setting goals, exercising legal rights, determining service standards, mobilising resources and implementing policies, programmes and projects.

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- enhance the performance of local authorities by collecting gender, age and income disaggregated data on innovative practices in public goods and services operation.
- collect and analyse data disaggregated by gender, age, and income, on the performance of local authorities.

3. Popular participation and civic engagement

Sustainable human settlements development requires popular participation, civic engagement, and a responsive, transparent, and accountable government.

ACTIONS:

- 158. (182) To encourage and support participation, civic engagement and the fulfilment of governmental responsibilities, national Governments, local authorities and/or civil society organizations should put into effect, at appropriate levels, institutional and legal frameworks that facilitate and enable the broad-based participation of all people and their community organizations in decision-making and in the implementation and monitoring of human settlements strategies, policies and programmes; these institutional and legal frameworks would be specifically aimed at, *inter alia*:
- 159. (182a) Protecting the human right to hold and express opinions and to seek, receive and impart ideas and information without interference;
- 160. (182f) Establishing regular and broad-based consultative mechanisms for involving civil society in decision-making in order to reflect the diverse needs of the community;
- 161. (182g) Removing legal barriers to participation in public life by socially marginalised groups and promoting non-discrimination legislation;
- 162. (182h) Establishing agenda-setting participatory mechanisms enabling individuals, families, communities, indigenous people and civil

ACTIONS:

- To encourage civic engagement, Governments and civil society should set up participatory mechanisms which are necessary for civic engagement and responsible government, such as:
- protecting the human right to freedom of thought and opinion;
  - establishing a mechanism for consulting civil society in decision-making;
  - removing barriers for participation in public life;
  - establishing a mechanism to enable anyone to play

society to play a proactive role in identifying local needs and priorities and formulating new policies, plans and projects;

83

163. (182j) Promoting equality and equity, incorporating gender considerations and the full and equal participation of women, and involving vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including people living in poverty and other low-income groups, through institutional measures to ensure that their interests are represented in policy- and decision-making processes and through such techniques as advocacy training and seminars, including those that develop mediating and consensus-building skills that will facilitate effective networking and alliance formation;

**4. Human Settlements Management**

**ACTIONS:**

164. (184) To facilitate capacity-building and institutional development for the improvement of human settlements planning and management, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities and their associations, should:

84

165. (184a) Support training programmes for administrators and civic officials at all levels, and for all other key actors, as appropriate, to enhance leadership qualities and promote the inclusion of women and young people in staff structures and decision-making;

a role in addressing local needs:

- promoting equality and equity through institutional measures which ensure that the interests of all are represented in advocacy, training and seminars to facilitate networking.

**4. Human settlements management**

**ACTIONS:**

To facilitate capacity-building and institutional development, Governments should:

- support training programmes for officials to enhance leadership qualities and promote the inclusion of women and youth;

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166. (184c) Promote comprehensive training, education and human resources development policies and programmes that are gender-sensitive and involve local authorities and their associations/networks, as well as academic, research, training and educational institutions, community-based organisations and the private sector, focusing on:

167. (184c i) The development of a multisectoral approach to human settlement development that includes the unique contributions and institutions of indigenous and immigrant people;

168. (184c ii) The training of trainers to develop a core capacity for institution-strengthening and capacity building that includes gender awareness and the needs of children, youth and the elderly as integral components;

169. (184c iii) 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;

170. (184h) Integrate gender-sensitive policies and standards in each of the categories above, if not already specifically indicated.

- promote training, education and policies that are gender-sensitive focusing on:

- the development of a multisectoral approach inclusive of immigrant and indigenous people

- training of trainers that includes awareness of gender and the needs of children, youth, and elderly

- capacity building to define needs and incorporate findings into management

- integrate gender sensitive policies.

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5. Metropolitan planning and management

ACTIONS:

171. (186) To address the special needs of metropolitan areas and the needs of all people living in those areas, Governments at the appropriate level, including local authorities, should :

172. (186b) Incorporate a gender perspective in policy, planning and management strategies;

173. (186f) Strengthen, as appropriate, the capacity and mandates of metropolitan authorities to deal effectively with, or respond to, issues of regional and national importance, such as land and property rights of women, land management, energy and water resources management, environmental management, transport and communications, trade and finance, adequate social services and infrastructure and access to them, and social integration;

174. (186g) Develop or, where necessary, create a core of professional staffs that includes women, trained in the areas of urban planning, environmental management, engineering, transportation, communications, social services, development of primary infrastructure, and emergency planning, and with the skills to work together to address major planning issues in an integrated way;

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5. Metropolitan planning and management

ACTIONS:

To address special needs in metropolitan areas, metropolitan authorities should:

- incorporate a gender perspective in all strategies;
- strengthen their capacity to deal with important regional and national issues such as land and property rights of women;
- develop a professional staff that includes women trained in all areas of development and with skills to address planning issues in an integrated way;

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85 175. (186h) Facilitate and promote policy dialogue, both nationally and internationally and the exchange of experience, expertise, know-how and technology among metropolitan authorities in such areas as transport and communications, water management and waste-water treatment, waste management, energy conservation, environmental management and social welfare that recognises women and marginalised groups;

## 6. Domestic financial resources and economic instruments

## ACTIONS:

176. (189) To strengthen national and local economies and their financial and economic base with a view to addressing the needs of sustainable human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should seek to provide an enabling framework which aims to:

8-11 86 177. (189f) Support local efforts to encourage voluntary private and community sector partnerships and participation in the building, operating and maintaining of open green spaces and basic infrastructure and of services that *inter alia*, are gender-sensitive, empower women and address the needs of marginalised groups

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- facilitate and promote policy dialogue, nationally and internationally, among metropolitan authorities that recognise the needs of women and marginalised groups.

## 6. Domestic financial resources and economic instruments

## ACTIONS:

To strengthen national and local economies, Governments should:

- support and encourage private and community partnerships in building and operating green spaces and basic service infrastructures that empower women and address the needs of marginalised groups

7. Information and communications

178. (190) Recent developments in information and communications technology, in conjunction with the liberalisation of trade and the free flow of capital on a global scale, will change the roles and functions of cities and their decision making and resource allocation processes. Societies that make the necessary investments in information technology and infrastructure and enable and empower their citizens to make effective use of such technology can expect to foster significant productivity gains in industry, trade and commerce. This improved information technology should be appropriately and optimally utilised to preserve and share cultural and moral values and enhance and improve education, training and public awareness of the social, economic and environmental issues affecting the quality of life, and to enable all interested parties and communities to exchange information on habitat practices, including those that uphold the rights of children, women and disadvantaged groups in the context of growing urbanisation.

ACTIONS:

179. (191) To improve the capacity to exploit these innovations to enhance their public good, Governments at all levels, including local authorities, should, as appropriate:

180. (191c) Develop methods of sharing experience of local initiatives

7. Information and communication

Societies that make investments in information technology and educate their citizens to use it can gain significant productivity. This technology should be used to preserve cultural and moral values, improve education, raise awareness of issues affecting the quality of life, and enable information exchanges on habitat practices.

ACTIONS:

To improve their capacity to exploit technological innovations, Governments should:

- develop methods of sharing experiences of local



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X III through electronic means, such as the Internet, networks and libraries, and of disseminating information on best practices including those that utilise gender policies;

181. (191i) Promote the free flow of, and access to, information in the areas of public policy, decision making, resource allocation and social development that have an impact on women and children in particular;

182. (193) To increase the knowledge and strengthen the information base, Governments and local authorities, together with research institutions, statistical offices and other interested parties, should:

Y IV 183. (193a) Promote research on economic, social and environmental aspects related to urbanisation, human settlements and shelter development, focusing on research priorities identified on the basis of national requirements and the need for systematic monitoring and assessment of development, including environmental and social impacts of human settlements policies programmes and projects, and paying attention to gender specificities;

initiatives and best practices through electronic means:

- promote the free flow of information that in particular impact women and children.

To increase knowledge, Governments and other institutions should:

- promote research on economic, social and environmental aspects of urbanisation, human settlements, and shelter development, focusing on national priorities and the need for assessment of development, while paying attention to gender issues.



## E. International co-operation and co-ordination

## E. International cooperation and coordination

### 2. An enabling international context

### 2. An enabling international context

184. (202) With specific reference to sustainable human settlements development and the provision of shelter, the international community should:

The international community should:

185. (202e) 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 through, *inter alia*, the provision of appropriate technical and financial assistance; in addition, encourage Governments to promote strategies to ensure that the private sector, including transnational corporations, complies with national laws and codes, social security regulations, applicable international agreements, instruments and conventions, including those related to the environment, and other relevant laws, and to adopt policies and establish mechanisms to grant contracts on a non-discriminatory basis; recruit women for leadership, decision-making and management and provide training programmes, all on an equal basis with men; and observe national labour, environment, consumer, health and safety laws, particularly those that affect women and children;

- encourage policies for developing the private sector and promote strategies for investing in the development of basic services. Government should ensure the private sector follows all regulations, does not discriminate in its contracts, recruits women for leadership and training opportunities equally, and observes national laws, specially those affecting women and children.

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## 3. Financial resources and economic instruments

## 3. Financial resources and economic instruments

186. (204) The full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular in all developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, will require the mobilization of additional financial resources from various sources at the national and international levels and more effective development cooperation in order to promote assistance for shelter and human settlements activities. This will require, *inter alia*:

Implementation of the Habitat Agenda in some countries will require extra funds. For this, Governments should:

91 187. (204d) Striving to ensure that structural adjustment programmes are consistent with the economic and social conditions, concerns, objectives and needs of each country, including the need for adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, and protect basic social programmes and expenditures, in particular those benefiting people living in poverty, women and vulnerable groups, from budget reductions; and also striving to ensure that corresponding investment programmes take account of human settlements development priorities, including local, urban and rural priorities;

- strive to ensure structural adjustment is contextually appropriate and includes the need for adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements and protect basic social programs;

188. (204q) Strengthening financial and technical assistance for community-based development and self help programmes, and strengthening co-operation among Governments at all levels, community organisations, co-operatives, formal and informal banking institutions, private enterprises and international institutions, with the aim of mobilising local

- strengthen financial and technical assistance for self-help and community based development and strengthen cooperation among private sector, govern-

92 savings, promoting the creation of local financial networks, promoting socially responsible corporate investment and reinvestment in local communities and increasing the availability of credit and market information to low-income individuals, women, and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups for shelter and human settlement development;

93 189. (204y) Promoting assistance for activities in the field of shelter and human settlements development in favour of people living in poverty, particularly women, and vulnerable groups, such as refugees, internally displaced persons, people with disabilities, street children, migrants and the homeless through specific targeted grants;

## F. Implementation and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda

### 2. Implementation at the national level

94 190. (213) Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Habitat Agenda. Governments as enabling partners should create and strengthen effective partnerships with women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, indigenous people and communities, local authorities, the private sector and non-governmental organisations in each country. National mechanisms should be established or improved, as appropriate, to co-ordinate actions at all relevant government levels that have an impact on human settle-

ment and non-government sectors to mobilise local savings and promote local financial solutions and networks;

- promote assistance for human settlements development that favour the poor, women, vulnerable groups, displaced people, street children and refugees.

## F. Implementation and follow up of the Habitat Agenda

### 2. Implementation at the national level

Governments hold the primary responsibility to implement the Habitat Agenda. They should create and strengthen

ments and to assess this impact prior to governmental actions. Local authorities should be supported in their efforts towards implementing the Habitat Agenda inasmuch as local action is required. All appropriate participatory mechanisms, including local Agenda 21 initiatives, should be developed and employed. Governments may wish to co-ordinate the implementation of their national plans of action through enhanced co-operation and partnerships with subregional, regional and international organisations, *inter alia*, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, which have a very important role to play in a number of countries.

#### 5. Performance evaluation, indicators and best practices

191. (239) It is essential to evaluate the impact of policies, strategies and actions on the provision of adequate shelter and the achievement of sustainable human settlements development. The results of these evaluations will be considered by the relevant United Nations organs and bodies, including the Commission on Human Settlements. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), together with other relevant organisations, will be responsible for establishing an appropriate process for analysing and monitoring major trends in urbanisation and the impact of urban policies. In particular, age and gender disaggregated

partnerships across sectors, support local authorities implementing the Habitat Agenda, develop mechanisms to implement Local Agenda 21 and consider cooperating with sub-regional, regional and international organisations to coordinate implementation.

#### 5. Performance evaluation, indicators and best practices

It is essential to evaluate the impact of policies, strategies and actions on adequate shelter provision and sustainable human settlements development with gender and

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information on the impact of urbanisation on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including children, should be collected, taking into account other relevant work in this field.

*ca 130 (94+36 gender)*

age disaggregated data that accounts for children, the vulnerable and disadvantaged. These will be considered by the relevant United Nations organs and international organizations in analysing and monitoring urban trends and policies.