



HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK
Habitat International Coalition

The Habitat Agenda Commitments – Thematic Review

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Introduction

This document reviews the specific principles and commitments that States adopted in the Habitat Agenda¹ at the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in 1996, which built upon the spirit and principles of the groundbreaking First United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I), at Vancouver, in 1976. This reference seeks to assist in reconsidering the standing Habitat II commitments before States adopt a new Agenda at the (first) United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held at Quito, in October 2016.

For the Habitat III process and outcomes to be credible, it is indispensable to assess implementation of the Habitat II commitments, as promised in the Habitat Agenda “G. Assessing Progress.” However, no such assessment or evaluation has taken place at the UN level since the global policy’s adoption in 1996.

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

The governance-related commitments are to be understood within the concept of habitat, as established in the two bi-decennial global policies (1976 and 1996), involving a “regional and cross-sectoral approach to human settlements planning, which places emphasis on rural/urban linkages and treats villages and cities as two ends [points] of a human settlements continuum in a common ecosystem” (*The Habitat Agenda*, para. 104).

The outcome document of the United Nations Conference Habitat III must not undo this achievement or adopt a standard inferior to Habitat II (1996). In order to ensure that minimum, this document reviews the commitments related to the following themes and constituencies:

Habitat themes:

- Human Rights
- Housing
- Land
- Rural component of habitat
- Governance
- Safety and security

Constituent groups:

- Gender equality – women
- Youth and children
- Older persons
- Indigenous people
- Persons with disabilities
- Displaced, migrants and refugees

For all communities concerned with these themes and social groups in the coming New Agenda, we trust that this compilation will assist advocates in the important task of ensuring that this New Habitat Agenda not only maintains, but also exceeds and further develops these pledged improvements in the living conditions of all toward the common realization of our promised good governance and human rights habitat.

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

HUMAN RIGHTS

Goals and Principles

We, the Heads of State or Government and the official delegations of countries assembled at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey from 3 to 14 June 1996, take this opportunity to endorse the universal goals of ensuring **adequate shelter for all** and **making human settlements safer, healthier and more liveable, equitable, sustainable and productive**. Our deliberations (...) have been inspired by the Charter of the United Nations and are aimed at reaffirming existing and forging new partnerships for action at the international, national and local levels to improve our living environment. (ID:1)

As human beings are at the centre of our concern for sustainable development, they are the basis for our actions as in implementing the Habitat Agenda. We recognize the particular needs of women, children and youth for safe, healthy and secure living conditions. We shall intensify our efforts to eradicate poverty and discrimination, to **promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all**, and to provide for basic needs, such as **education, nutrition and life-span health care services**, and, especially, adequate shelter for all. To this end, we commit ourselves to improving the living conditions in human settlements in ways that are consonant with local needs and realities, and we acknowledge the need to address the global, economic, social and environmental trends to ensure the creation of **better living environments** for all people. We shall also ensure the **full and equal participation of all** women and men, and the effective participation of youth, **in political, economic and social life**. We shall promote **full accessibility for people with disabilities**, as well as **gender equality** in policies, programmes and projects for shelter and sustainable human settlements development; (ID:7)

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

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**; (H2:11)

[S]ustainable 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 realization of sustainable development; (H2:4)

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**" (H2:21)

While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the **duty of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development;** (H2:23)

We reaffirm and are guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the **full realization of the human rights set out in international instruments** and in particular, in this context, the right to adequate housing as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and provided for in the International Covenant on 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 realized progressively. We reaffirm that **all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social - are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated;** (H2:26)

Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, have **equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education and open spaces.** In addition, such human settlements provide **equal opportunity for a productive and freely chosen livelihood; equal access to economic resources,** including the right to inheritance, the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; **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; (H2:27)

All people have rights and must also accept their responsibility to respect and protect the rights of others - including future generations - and to contribute actively to the common good. **Sustainable human settlements are those that, inter alia, generate a sense of citizenship and identity, cooperation and dialogue for the common good, and a spirit of voluntarism and civic engagement, where all people are encouraged and have an equal opportunity to participate in decision-making and development.** Governments at all appropriate levels, including local authorities, have a responsibility to ensure **access to education** and to **protect their population's health, safety and general welfare.** This requires, as appropriate, establishing policies, laws and regulations for both public and private activities, encouraging responsible private activities in all fields, facilitating community groups' participation, adopting transparent procedures, encouraging public-spirited leadership and public-private partnerships, and helping people **to understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities** through **open and effective participatory processes, universal education and information dissemination;** (H2:32)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

Adequate shelter for all

We reaffirm our commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as provided for in international instruments. In this context, we recognize an obligation by Governments to enable people to obtain shelter and to protect and improve dwellings and neighbourhoods. We commit ourselves to the goal of improving living and working conditions on an equitable and sustainable basis, so that everyone will have adequate shelter that is healthy, safe, secure, accessible and affordable and that includes basic services, facilities and amenities, and will enjoy freedom from discrimination in housing and legal security of tenure. We shall implement and promote this objective in a manner fully consistent with human rights standards; (39) (37)

Providing legal security of tenure and equal access to land to all people, including women and those living in poverty; and undertaking legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (40b) (72e) (78f)

Ensuring transparent, comprehensive and accessible systems in transferring land rights and legal security of tenure; (40d)

Increasing the supply of affordable housing, including through encouraging and promoting affordable home ownership and increasing the supply of affordable rental, communal, cooperative and other housing through partnerships among public, private and community initiatives, creating and promoting market-based incentives while giving due respect to the rights and obligations of both tenants and owners; (40h) (61b) (68g)

Protecting, within the national context, the legal traditional rights of indigenous people to land and other resources, as well as strengthening of land management; (40m)

Protecting all people from and providing legal protection and redress for forced evictions that are contrary to the law, taking human rights into consideration; when evictions are unavoidable, ensuring, as appropriate, that alternative suitable solutions are provided. (40n) (98b)

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

Adopting policies aimed at making housing habitable, affordable and accessible, including for those who are unable to secure adequate housing through their own means, by, inter alia: (i) Expanding the supply of affordable housing through appropriate regulatory measures and market incentives; (ii) Increasing affordability through the provision of subsidies and rental and other forms of housing assistance to people living in poverty; (iii) Supporting community-based, cooperative and non-profit rental and owner-occupied housing programmes; (iv) Promoting supporting services for the homeless and other vulnerable groups; (v) Mobilizing innovative financial and other resources - public and private - for housing and community development; (vi) Creating and promoting market-based incentives to encourage the private sector to meet the need for affordable rental and owner-occupied housing; (vii) Promoting sustainable spatial development patterns and transportation systems that improve accessibility of goods, services, amenities and work; (61c)

Effective monitoring and evaluation of housing conditions, including the extent of homelessness and inadequate housing, and, in consultation with the affected population, formulating and adopting appropriate housing policies and implementing effective strategies and plans to address those problems. (61d)

Ensure that equal rights of women and men related to land and property are protected under the law; (75c)

Develop land codes and legal frameworks that define the nature of land and real property and the rights that are formally recognized; (76k)

Employ mechanisms (for example, a body of law, a cadastre, rules for property valuation and others) for the clear definition of property rights; (72c) (80e)

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; (78b)

Adequate shelter must be recognized as an important component of the particular care and assistance to which children and their families, as well as children living outside or without families, have a right. Special consideration must be given to the needs of children living in difficult circumstances; (94)

Sustainable human settlements

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 recognizing 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; (43a)

[Promote t]he 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; (59b)

Promote comprehensive rural development through such measures as equal access to land, land improvement, economic diversification, the development of small and medium-scale cities in rural areas and, where appropriate, indigenous land settlements; (76e)

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

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; Pursue the goal of ensuring quality jobs, and safeguard the basic rights and interests of workers and, to this end, freely promote respect for relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, including those on the prohibition of forced and child labour, freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, and the principle of

non-discrimination; Facilitate the extension to the informal sector of the protection of human rights in the field of labour; (118 a and b) (160a) Legislation to enhance consumer rights; (142d)

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

Provide equal access to basic education, paying special attention to people living in poverty and to youth living in rural areas and addressing constraints created by distance, lack of educational facilities and social or economic barriers; (120c)

Economic and social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable human settlements development. Economically buoyant, socially vibrant and environmentally sound human settlements under conditions of continuing and rapid urbanization will increasingly depend on the capacity of all levels of government to reflect the priorities of communities, to encourage and guide local development and forge partnerships between the private, public, voluntary and community sectors. This can be achieved through the effective decentralization of responsibilities, policy management, decision-making authority, and sufficient resources, including revenue collection authority, to local authorities, closest to and most representative of their constituencies, as well as through international cooperation and partnerships, setting in motion a strategic and participatory urban management process rooted in a shared vision while ensuring and protecting human rights; (177)

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; (179)

Protecting the human right to hold and express opinions and to seek, receive and impart ideas and information without interference; Providing access to effective judicial and administrative channels for affected individuals and groups so that they can challenge or seek redress from decisions and actions that are socially and environmentally harmful or violate human rights, including legal mechanisms to ensure that all State bodies, both national and local, and other civil organizations remain accountable for their actions, in accordance with their social, environmental and human rights obligations; Broadening the procedural right of individuals and civil society organizations to take legal action on behalf of affected communities or groups that do not have the resources or skills to take such action themselves; Undertaking civic and human rights education and training programmes, using all forms of the media and education and information campaigns, to promote a civic spirit and an awareness of civil rights and responsibilities and the means of exercising them, of the changing roles of women and men and of issues relating to sustainable human settlements development and the quality of life; (181) (182 a, k, l and e) (190).

The effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda requires strengthening local authorities, community organizations and non-governmental organizations in the spheres of education, health, poverty eradication, human rights, social integration, infrastructure and improvement of the quality of life, and relief and rehabilitation, enabling them to participate constructively in policy-making and implementation (...) (237).

HOUSING

Goals and Principles

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

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

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

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

We recognize that access to safe and healthy shelter and basic services is essential to a person's physical, psychological, social and economic well-being and should be a fundamental part of our urgent actions for the more than one billion people without decent living conditions. Our objective is to achieve adequate shelter for all, especially the deprived urban and rural poor, through an enabling approach to the development and improvement of shelter that is environmentally sound; (H2:3)

The most serious problems confronting cities and towns and their inhabitants include spreading homelessness and expansion of squatter settlements, inadequate and deteriorating building stock, services and infrastructure, insecure land tenure, inadequate water supply and sanitation and an increasing vulnerability to disaster; (H2:8)

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

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

Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, have equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education and open spaces. In addition, such human settlements provide equal opportunity for a productive and freely chosen livelihood; equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance, the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (H2:27)

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

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

Adequate housing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shelter policies and management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Review and revise legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks that act as barriers within the shelter sectors; Support, through legislation, incentives and other means, where appropriate, organizations of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups so that they may promote their interests and become involved in local and national economic, social and political decision-making; Establish laws and regulations aimed at preventing discrimination and barriers and, where such laws and regulations already exist, ensure their enforcement; Work with private sector cooperatives, local communities and other interested parties to raise awareness of the need to eliminate prejudice and discrimination in housing transactions and the provision of services; Consider becoming parties to the relevant instruments of the United Nations system that, inter alia, deal with the specific and special needs of those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; (96 a-e)

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

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

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

Financing housing and delivery systems

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

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

Adopt an enabling approach to shelter development, including the renovation, rehabilitation, upgrading and strengthening of the existing housing stock in both rural and urban areas; Establish priorities for the

allocation of natural, human, technical and financial resources; Develop adequate institutional frameworks for the public, community and private sectors, especially for facilitating investments in the supply of both rural and urban shelter by the private and non-profit sectors; When necessary, review and adjust the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework to respond to the special needs of those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, in particular, people living in poverty and low-income people; Periodically evaluate and, as necessary, revise policies and systems for financing shelter, taking into consideration the impact of such policies and systems on the environment, economic development and social welfare, especially their different effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; Promote and adopt, where appropriate, policies that coordinate and encourage the adequate supply of the key inputs required for the construction of housing and infrastructure, such as land, finance and building materials; Encourage the development of environmentally sound and affordable construction methods and the production and distribution of building materials, including strengthening the local building materials industry, based as far as possible on locally available resources; Promote, in those countries where it may be appropriate, the use of labour-intensive construction and maintenance technologies that generate employment in the construction sector for the underemployed labour force found in most large cities, at the same time promoting the development of skills in the construction sector; (70 a-h)

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

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

Adopt policies that increase the mobilization of housing finance and extend more credit to people living in poverty, while maintaining the solvency of credit systems; Strengthen the effectiveness of existing housing finance systems; Enhance the accessibility of housing finance systems and eradicate all forms of discrimination against borrowers; Promote transparency, accountability and ethical practices in financial transactions through support from effective legal and regulatory frameworks; Establish, where necessary, a comprehensive and detailed body of property law and property rights, and enforce foreclosure laws to facilitate private-sector participation; Encourage the private sector to mobilize resources to meet varying housing demands, including rental housing, maintenance and rehabilitation; Support the competitiveness of mortgage markets and, where appropriate, facilitate the development of secondary markets and securitization; Decentralize, as appropriate, the lending operations of mortgage markets and encourage the private sector to do the same in order to provide greater physical access to credit, especially in rural areas; Encourage all lending institutions to improve their

management and the efficiency of their operations; Encourage community mortgage programmes that are accessible to people living in poverty, especially women, in order to increase their productive capacity by providing them with access to capital, resources, credit, land, technology and information so that they can raise their income and improve their living conditions and status within the household; (81 a-j)

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

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

Adopt macroeconomic policies and frameworks that encourage increased domestic savings and facilitate their use in housing, basic infrastructure and other aspects of the social and economic development of human settlements; Develop efficient, fair, equitable and buoyant sources of national and local revenue, including taxation, user charges, tariffs and betterment levies, to promote national and local capacity for capital investment in housing, infrastructure and basic services, and devise, as appropriate, new fiscal instruments that penalize environmental damage from both production and consumption activities; (189 b-c)

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

Social production

Promote self-built housing within the context of a comprehensive land-use policy; Integrate and regularize self-built housing, especially through appropriate land registration programmes, as a holistic part of the overall housing and infrastructure system in urban and rural areas, subject to a comprehensive land-use policy; Encourage efforts to improve existing self-built housing through better

access to housing resources, including land, finance and building materials; Develop the means and methods to improve the standards of self-built housing; Encourage community-based and non-governmental organizations in their role of assisting and facilitating the production of self-built housing; Facilitate regular dialogue and gender-sensitive participation of the various actors involved in housing production at all levels and stages of decision-making; Mitigate the problems related to spontaneous human settlements through programmes and policies that anticipate unplanned settlements; (74 a-g) (98c)

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

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

Participation and capacity development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Data and research

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

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

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

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

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

Promote research on economic, social and environmental aspects related to (...) shelter development, focusing on research priorities identified on the basis of national requirements and the need for

systematic monitoring and assessment of development (...); Strengthen existing human settlements related information systems by adopting efficient and sustainable methodologies and institutional arrangements, by systematically incorporating research results and by compiling, analysing and updating data for human settlements and shelter statistics and policy-sensitive indicators; (193 a and b)

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

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

LAND

Goals and Principles

Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, Political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, have equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education and open spaces. In addition, such human settlements provide equal opportunity for a productive and freely chosen livelihood; equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance, the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (H2:27)

Sustainability of human settlements entails their balanced geographical distribution or other appropriate distribution in keeping with national conditions, promotion of economic and social development, human health and education, and the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, and maintenance of cultural diversity as well as air, water, forest, vegetation and soil qualities at standards sufficient to sustain human life and well-being for future generations; (H2:29)

The quality of life of all people depends, among other economic, social, environmental and cultural factors, on the physical conditions and spatial characteristics of our villages, towns and cities. City layout and aesthetics, land-use patterns, population and building densities, transportation and ease of access for all to basic goods, services and public amenities have a crucial bearing on the liveability of settlements. People's need for community and their aspirations for more liveable neighbourhoods and settlements should guide the process of design, management and maintenance of human settlements. It is also of crucial importance that spatial diversification and mixed use of housing and services be promoted at the local level in order to meet the diversity of needs and expectations; (H2:30)

The most serious problems confronting cities and towns and their inhabitants include improper land use, insecure land tenure,(...);” (H2:9) “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.” (H2:75) “Land is essential for the provision of food, water and energy for many living systems, and is critical to human activity. In rapidly growing urban areas, access to land is rendered increasingly difficult by the potentially competing demands of housing, industry, commerce, infrastructure, transport, agriculture and the need for open spaces and green areas, and the protection of fragile ecosystems. Bringing the development of urban areas into harmony with the natural environment and the overall system of settlements is one of the basic tasks to be undertaken in achieving a sustainable urbanized world; (H2:109)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

Security of tenure and land access

Provide legal security of tenure and equal access to land for all people, 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 penalized for their status; work with community and nongovernmental organizations to assist members of vulnerable groups to obtain secure tenure; undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (40b, 61b, 72e, 79, 98)

Ensure transparent, comprehensive and accessible systems for transferring land rights and legal security of tenure; (40d)

Promote and adopt, where appropriate, policies that coordinate and encourage the adequate supply of the key inputs required for the construction of housing and infrastructure, such as land, finance and building materials; review and rationalize, where appropriate, systems of subsidies through policies that will ensure their viability, equity and transparency, thus allowing many people without access to credit and land to enter the market; (70f, 83)

Permit the exchange of land and housing without undue restriction, and apply procedures that will make property transactions transparent and accountable in order to prevent corrupt practices; (72d)

Apply appropriate fiscal measures, including taxation, to promote the adequate supply of housing and land; (72f)

Promote the provision of an adequate supply of land in the context of sustainable land-use policies. 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; (75)

Recognize and legitimize the diversity of land delivery mechanisms; Consider fiscal and other measures, as appropriate, to promote the efficient functioning of the market for vacant land, ensuring the supply of housing and land for shelter development; Develop appropriate cadastral systems and streamline land registration procedures in order to facilitate the regularization of informal settlements, where appropriate, and simplify land transactions; Develop land codes and legal frameworks that define the nature of land and real property and the rights that are formally recognized; Promote comprehensive rural development through such measures as equal access to land, land improvement, economic diversification, the development of small and medium-scale cities in rural areas and, where appropriate, indigenous land settlements; (76b, f, l,j and m)

Develop a legal framework of land use aimed at balancing the need for construction with the protection of the environment, incorporating environmental concerns, minimizing risk and diversifying uses and encompassing the diversity of tenure systems; (77d, 113b, 114c)

Eradicate legal and social barriers to the equal and equitable access to land; 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; (78b)

Adopt an enabling legal and regulatory framework specifying recognized types of land tenure and prescribing procedures for the regularization of tenure; Provide institutional support, accountability and transparency of land management, and accurate information on land ownership, land transactions and current and planned land use; Explore innovative arrangements to enhance the security of tenure, other than full legalization; Capitalize on the potential contribution of key interested parties in the private formal and informal sectors, and support the engagement of nongovernmental organizations, community organizations and the private sector in participatory and collective initiatives and mechanisms appropriate to conflict resolution; Encourage, in particular, the participation of community and non-governmental organizations; (79a-f)

Land management and use

Protect, within the national context, the legal traditional rights of indigenous people to land and other resources, as well as strengthening of land management; (40m)

Promote the efficient and rational use of natural resources - including land - and meet basic needs, thereby providing a healthy living and working environment for all and reducing the ecological footprint of human settlements; (40j)

Promote optimal use of productive land in urban and rural areas and protecting fragile ecosystems and environmentally vulnerable areas from the negative impacts of human settlements, inter alia, through developing and supporting the implementation of improved land management practices that deal comprehensively with potentially competing land requirements for agriculture, industry, transport, urban development, green space, protected areas and other vital needs; (43p, 113h)

Promote the redevelopment and reuse of already serviced but poorly utilized commercial and residential land in urban centres in order to revitalize them and reduce development pressures on productive agricultural lands on the periphery; (43t)

Apply public policies, including expenditure, taxation, monetary and planning policies, to stimulate sustainable shelter markets and land development; (67d)

Integrate land and shelter policies with policies for reducing poverty and creating jobs, for environmental protection, for preservation of cultural heritage, for education and health, for providing clean water-supply and sanitation facilities, and for empowering those belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, particularly people without shelter; (67e)

Coordinate and integrate shelter and human settlements policies with other related policies, such as population and human resource development policies, environment, cultural, land and infrastructure policies, and urban and rural planning, as well as private and/or public employment initiatives; (68a)

Periodically review and adjust legal, financial and regulatory frameworks, including frameworks for contracts, land use, building codes and standards; (72b)

Promote self-built housing within the context of a comprehensive land-use policy; Integrate and regularize self-built housing, especially through appropriate land registration programmes; Encourage efforts to improve existing self-built housing through better access to housing resources, including land; (74a–c)

Ensure an adequate supply of serviceable land; Decentralize land management responsibilities and provide local capacity-building programmes that recognize the role of key interested parties, where appropriate; Prepare comprehensive inventories of publicly held land and, where appropriate, develop programmes for making them available for shelter and human settlements development; Apply transparent, comprehensive and equitable fiscal incentive mechanisms, as appropriate, to stimulate the efficient, accessible and environmentally sound use of land, and utilize land-based and other forms of taxation in mobilizing financial resources for service provision; Make full use of existing infrastructure in urban areas, encouraging optimal density of the occupation of available serviced land in accordance with its carrying capacity; Consider the adoption of innovative instruments that capture gains in land value and recover public investments; Consider the adoption of innovative instruments for the efficient and sustainable assembly and development of land, including, where appropriate, land readjustment and consolidation; Mobilize local and regional expertise to promote research, the transfer of technology and education programmes to support land administration systems; Ensure simple procedures for the transfer of land and conversion of land use within the context of a comprehensive policy framework, including the protection of arable land and the environment; (76 a, c-e, g, k, l-m, 159c)

Promote efficient land markets and the environmentally sustainable use of land; Support the development of land markets by means of effective legal frameworks, and develop flexible and varied mechanisms aimed at mobilizing lands with diverse juridical status; (77 b)

To support the efforts of human settlements to establish sustainable urban land-use patterns and planning: Establish, as appropriate, legal frameworks to facilitate the development and implementation, at the national, subnational and local levels, of public plans and policies for sustainable urban development and rehabilitation, land utilization, housing and the improved management of urban growth; Develop, where appropriate, fiscal incentives and land-use control measures, including land-use planning solutions for more rational and sustainable use of limited land resources; Promote the integration of land-use, communications and transport planning to encourage development patterns that reduce the demand for transport; (113a, c and i)

Develop and support improved and integrated land management; Develop integrated land information and mapping systems; Establish, as appropriate, structures for the enforcement of land management laws and regulations in order to make enforcement and appeals more efficient and effective; (114a-b)

Promote the protection of the living environment and strive to restore contaminated land, air and water to levels acceptable for sustainable human settlements; (137m)

Develop, adopt and enforce appropriate norms and by-laws for land-use, building and planning standards that are based on professionally established hazard and vulnerability assessments; (172a)

Strengthen, as necessary, the capacity of educational, research and training institutions to provide continuous training to local elected officials, managers and professionals on urban-related issues, such as planning, land and resource management techniques, and municipal finance; (180e)

Adopt and apply metropolitan management guidelines in the areas of land, environment and infrastructural management, as well as finance and administration. (186c)

RURAL HABITAT

Goals and Principles

Rural and urban development are interdependent. In addition to improving the urban habitat, we must also work to extend adequate infrastructure, public services and employment opportunities to rural areas in order to enhance their attractiveness, develop an integrated network of settlements and minimize rural-to-urban migration. Small- and medium-sized towns need special focus. (ID:6)

We shall promote the conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of buildings, monuments, open spaces, landscapes and settlement patterns of historical, cultural, architectural, natural, religious and spiritual value. (ID:11)

The growth of cities and towns causes social, economic and environmental changes that go beyond city boundaries. Habitat II deals with all settlements - large, medium and small - and reaffirms the need for universal improvements in living and working conditions; (H2:7)

In the process of globalization and growing interdependence, rural settlements represent a great challenge and opportunity for renewed developmental initiatives at all levels and in all fields. Many rural settlements, however, are facing a lack or an inadequacy of economic opportunities, especially employment, and of infrastructure and services, particularly those related to water, sanitation, health, education, communication, transportation and energy. Appropriate efforts and technologies for rural development can help to reduce, inter alia, imbalances, unsustainable practices, poverty, isolation, environmental pollution and insecure land tenure. Such efforts can contribute to improving the linkage of rural settlements with the mainstream of economic, social and cultural life, to assuring sustainable communities and safe environments, and to reducing pressures on urban growth; (H2:9)

Cities, towns and rural settlements are linked through the movements of goods, resources and people. Urban-rural linkages are of crucial importance for the sustainability of human settlements. As rural population growth has outpaced the generation of employment and economic opportunities, rural-to-urban migration has steadily increased, particularly in developing countries, which has put enormous pressure on urban infrastructure and services already under serious stress. It is urgent to eradicate rural poverty and to improve the quality of living conditions, as well as to create employment and educational opportunities in rural settlements, regional centres and secondary cities. Full advantage must be taken of the complementary contributions and linkages of rural and urban areas by balancing their different economic, social and environmental requirements; (H2:10)

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 opportunity for personal, spiritual, religious, cultural and social development; 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 (H2:27);

In the process of urbanization, policies and programmes for the sustainable development of human settlements in both rural and urban areas require strong subnational governmental institutions working in partnership with all interested parties (...) (and) a regional and cross-sectoral approach to human settlements planning, which places emphasis on rural/urban linkages and treats villages and cities as two ends of a human settlements continuum in a common ecosystem. (H2:104)

The diversity of types of human settlements is a key component to creating just and sustainable societies. The living and working conditions in all human settlements, including regional urban centres, rural service centres, rural hamlets, rural communities, market towns and villages, must be improved, with particular emphasis on shelter, social and physical infrastructure, and services. The maintenance and the development of rural settlements require sustainable agriculture and forestry activities and improved agricultural technologies, economic diversification, and expanded employment opportunities created by encouraging appropriate and environmentally sustainable investment in industry and related economic production and service activities; (H2:106)

Bringing the development of urban areas into harmony with the natural environment and the overall system of settlements is one of the basic tasks to be undertaken in achieving a sustainable urbanized world. (...) National, subnational and local policies and programmes need to be integrated. In this regard, the principle of the precautionary approach, stipulated in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, should be widely applied by Governments according to their capabilities, and the use of environmental and social impact assessments is desirable; (H2:109)

Urban and rural areas are interdependent economically, socially and environmentally. At the turn of the century, a substantial proportion of the world's population will continue to live in rural settlements, particularly in developing countries. In order to achieve a more sustainable future for the Earth, these rural settlements need to be valued and supported. (...) Policies and programmes for the sustainable development of rural areas that integrate rural regions into the national economy require strong local and national institutions for the planning and management of human settlements that place emphasis on rural-urban linkages and treat villages and cities as two ends of a human settlements continuum; (H2:163)

In many countries, rural populations, including indigenous people, play an important role in ensuring food security and in sustaining the social and ecological balance over large tracts of land and thus contribute significantly to the task of protecting biodiversity and fragile ecosystems and to the sustainable use of biological resources; (H2:164)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

Rural habitat protection

Promoting changes in unsustainable production and consumption patterns, particularly in industrialized countries, population policies and settlement structures that are more sustainable, reduce environmental stress, promote the efficient and rational use of natural resources - including water, air, biodiversity, forests, energy sources and land - and meet basic needs, thereby providing a healthy living and working environment for all and reducing the ecological footprint of human settlements; (43j)

Promoting optimal use of productive land in urban and rural areas and protecting fragile ecosystems and environmentally vulnerable areas from the negative impacts of human settlements, inter alia, through developing and supporting the implementation of improved land management practices that deal comprehensively with potentially competing land requirements for agriculture, industry, transport, urban development, green space, protected areas and other vital needs; (43p) (109)

Protecting and maintaining the historical, cultural and natural heritage, including traditional shelter and settlement patterns, as appropriate, of indigenous and other people, as well as landscapes and urban flora and fauna in open and green spaces; (43r) (120g) (152)

Promoting the redevelopment and reuse of already serviced but poorly utilized commercial and residential land in urban centres in order to revitalize them and reduce development pressures on productive agricultural lands on the periphery; (43t)

Formulating and implementing programmes that contribute to maintaining and strengthening the vitality of rural areas; (43x)

Preventing man-made disasters, including major technological disasters, by ensuring adequate regulatory and other measures to avoid their occurrence, and reducing the impacts of natural disasters and other emergencies on human settlements (...); (43z) (57)

Facilitate the efforts of trade unions, farmers', women's and consumers' organizations, organizations of people with disabilities and other associations of the populations concerned to set up their own cooperatively organized or local financial institutions and mechanisms; (82e)

The use of a variety of planning mechanisms that provide for meaningful participation to reduce the negative impacts on biological resources, such as prime agricultural land and forests, that may arise from human settlements activities; (85j)

Promote the use of tools for disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness in order to reduce the vulnerability of populations to natural, man-made and technological disasters; (98h)

Ensure that children have access to the natural world on a daily basis through free play outdoors, and establish education programmes to help children investigate their community environments, including natural ecosystems; (139e)

[I]mproving natural and human-made disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response (...); 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; (172b)

Healthy and environmentally sound agricultural activities and the provision of common land should be integrated into the planning of urban and peri-urban areas; (112)

Encourage, where appropriate, the establishment of productive and recreational green belts around urban and rural agglomerations in order to protect their environment and contribute to the provision of food products; Reduce significantly the degradation of the marine environment emanating from land-based activities, including municipal, industrial and agricultural wastes and run-off, which have a pernicious impact on the productive areas of the marine environment and coastal areas; (139 a and d)

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: (a) Improve access to information on agricultural production, marketing and pricing in rural and remote areas by using, inter alia, advanced and accessible communication technologies; (b) In cooperation with farmers' organizations, 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; (166)

Sustainable rural development

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

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; (46d)

Formulate and implement policies that promote the enablement approach to the development, maintenance and rehabilitation of shelter (...); (a) Consider establishing priorities for the allocation of natural, human, technical and financial resources; (68) (70a) (204d) (70c)

Coordinate and integrate shelter and human settlements policies with other related policies, such as population and human resource development policies, environment, cultural, land and infrastructure policies, and urban and rural planning, as well as private and/or public employment initiatives; (69a)

Integrate and regularize self-built housing, especially through appropriate land registration programmes, as a holistic part of the overall housing and infrastructure system in urban and rural areas, subject to a comprehensive land-use policy; (74b)

Decentralize, as appropriate, the lending operations of mortgage markets and encourage the private sector to do the same in order to provide greater physical access to credit, especially in rural areas; (81h)

Promote comprehensive rural development through such measures as equal access to land, land improvement, economic diversification, the development of small and medium-scale cities in rural areas and, where appropriate, indigenous land settlements; (76m) (40b) Ensure equal access to housing, land and public services (...); (119l)

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

Provide equal access to basic education, paying special attention to people living in poverty and to youth living in rural areas and addressing constraints created by distance, lack of educational facilities and social or economic barriers; (120c)

Dispose as soon as possible, within both rural and urban areas, of sewage, waste waters and solid wastes, including hazardous wastes, in a manner that conforms with national or international environmental quality guidelines; (138d) (105)

Develop strategies to reduce the demand for limited water resources by increasing efficiencies in the agricultural and industrial sectors; (141h)

Encourage the use of safe industrial and agricultural waste products and other types of low-energy and recycled building materials in construction; (145k)

Promote urban and rural planning and design solutions that are conducive to the efficient use of energy and that pay due attention to end users and their attitudes and practices; (146a)

To strengthen sustainable development and employment opportunities in impoverished rural areas, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should: (a) Stimulate rural development by enhancing employment opportunities, providing educational and health facilities and services, improving housing, strengthening technical infrastructure and encouraging rural enterprises and sustainable agriculture; (b) Establish priorities for regional infrastructure investments based on opportunities for economic return, social equity and environmental quality; (c) Encourage the private sector to develop and strengthen contract-based wholesale markets and marketing intermediaries for rural products so as to improve and/or establish a cash-flow and futures contract economy in rural areas; (d) Promote equitable and efficient access to markets as well as, where appropriate, pricing and payment systems for rural products, especially of food items consumed in urban areas; (e) Promote products from rural areas in urban markets and rural service centres by improving access to market information and distribution centres and networks; (f) Reduce significantly or eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies and other programmes, such as those that stimulate the excessive use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and price control or subsidy systems that perpetuate unsustainable practices and production systems in rural and agricultural economies; (168)

Balanced territorial development

Promoting the development of more balanced and sustainable human settlements by encouraging productive investments, job creation and social infrastructure development in small and medium-sized cities, towns and villages; (43i)

Consider the need to plan, design and build sustainable new human settlements, taking into account the environmental impact, to relieve present and obviate future population and development pressures on urban and rural areas; (127d)

[S]pecific actions also need to be taken to develop and maintain efficient and affordable transport, information and communications systems and linkages with other urban centres and with rural areas and to seek reasonably balanced patterns of development, both geographically and economically; (156)

To promote the sustainable development of rural settlements and to reduce rural-to-urban migration, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should: (a) Promote the active participation of all interested parties, including those in isolated and remote communities, in ensuring the integrated consideration of the environmental, social and economic objectives of rural development efforts; (b) Take appropriate measures to improve the living and working conditions in regional urban centres, small towns and rural service centres; (c) Foster a sustainable and diversified agricultural system in order to have vibrant rural communities; (d) Provide infrastructure, services and incentives for

investment in rural areas; (e) Promote education and training in rural areas to facilitate employment and the use of appropriate technology; (165) (54)

In establishing policies for sustainable regional development and management, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should: (a) Promote education and training programmes and establish procedures for the full participation of rural and indigenous people in the setting of priorities for balanced and ecologically viable regional development; (b) Make full use of geographic information systems and environmental assessment methods for the preparation of environmentally sound regional development policies; (c) Implement regional and rural development plans and programmes based on needs and economic viability; (d) Establish an efficient and transparent system for the allocation of resources to rural areas based on people's needs; (167)

To achieve (balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural development), Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, with the support of the relevant international and regional institutions, should: (a) Provide an appropriate legal, fiscal and organizational framework that is suitable for strengthening the networks of small and medium-sized settlements in rural areas; (b) Facilitate the development of an efficient communication and distribution infrastructure for the exchange of information, labour, goods, services and capital between urban and rural areas; (c) Promote broad cooperation among local communities to find integrated solutions for land-use, transport and environmental problems in an urban-rural context; (d) Pursue a participatory approach to balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural development, based on a continuous dialogue among the interested parties involved in urban-rural development. (169)

GOVERNANCE

Goals and Principles

Recognizing local authorities as our closest partners, and as essential, in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, we must, within the legal framework of each country, promote decentralization through democratic local authorities and work to strengthen their financial and institutional capacities in accordance with the conditions of countries, while ensuring their transparency, accountability and responsiveness to the needs of people, which are key requirements for Governments at all levels. The enabling strategy includes a responsibility for Governments to implement special measures for members of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups when appropriate; (ID:12)

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 realization of sustainable development; (H2:4)

The sooner communities, local governments and partnerships among the public, private and community sectors join efforts to create comprehensive, bold and innovative strategies for shelter and human settlements, the better the prospects will be for the safety, health and well-being of people and the brighter the outlook for solutions to global environment and social problems; (H2:5)

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 participation in public decision-making; and equal access to mechanisms to ensure that rights are not violated; (H2:27)

Governments at all appropriate levels, including local authorities, have a responsibility to ensure access to education and to protect their population's health, safety and general welfare. This requires, as appropriate, establishing policies, laws and regulations for both public and private activities, encouraging responsible private activities in all fields, facilitating community groups' participation, adopting transparent procedures, encouraging public-spirited leadership and public-private partnerships, and helping people to understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities through open and effective participatory processes, universal education and information dissemination; (H2:32)

Partnerships among countries and among all actors within countries from public, private, voluntary and community-based organizations, the cooperative sector, non-governmental organizations and individuals are essential to the achievement of sustainable human settlements development and the provision of adequate shelter for all and basic services. Partnerships can integrate and mutually support objectives of broad-based participation. The processes can be made more effective by strengthening civil organizations at all levels. Every effort must be made to encourage the collaboration and partnership of all sectors of society and among all actors in decision-making processes, as appropriate; (H2:33)

The international community and Governments at all appropriate levels are called upon to promote sound and effective policies and instruments, thereby strengthening cooperation among Governments

and non-governmental organizations, as well as to mobilize complementary resources to meet these challenges; (H2:34)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

We commit ourselves to implementing the Habitat Agenda, through local, national, subregional and regional plans of action and/or other policies and programmes drafted and executed in cooperation with interested parties at all levels and supported by the international community, taking into account that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development; (37)

Legislative and institutional improvement

Enabling local leadership, promoting democratic rule, exercising public authority and using public resources in all public institutions at all levels in a manner that is conducive to ensuring transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of towns, cities and metropolitan areas; (45a)

Adopting, where appropriate, transparent, timely, predictable and performance-based mechanisms for the allocation of resources among different levels of government and various actors; (48f)

Implement the institutional and legal reforms necessary to remove unnecessary overlaps and redundancies in the functions and jurisdictions of multiple sectoral institutions and to ensure effective coordination among those institutions in the delivery and management of services; (141f)

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; (36)

Protect all people from, and providing legal protection and redress for forced evictions that are contrary to the law, taking human rights into consideration; when evictions are unavoidable, ensuring, as appropriate, that alternative suitable solutions are provided; (40n, 61b, 98b)

Provide legal security of tenure and equal access to land to all people; (142d)

Provide a body of law, cadastre, rules for property valuation and other statutory basis for the clear definition of property rights; (H3:72c) Develop appropriate cadastral systems and streamline land registration procedures in order to facilitate the regularization of informal settlements; (76j)

Permit land and housing exchange without undue restriction, and apply procedures that will make property transactions transparent, accountable and prevent corrupt practices; (72e)

Provide institutional support in the form of industrial standards and quality control, with particular attention to energy efficiency, health, accessibility, and consumer safety and protection; (88)

Promote, where appropriate, compliance with and enforcement of all health and environmental laws, especially in low-income areas with vulnerable groups; (98d)

Establish, as appropriate, structures for the enforcement of land management laws and regulations in order to make enforcement and appeals more efficient and effective; (114b)

Develop the land market through the establishment of an effective legal framework that incorporates environmental concerns and encompasses the diversity of tenure systems; (114c)

Provide, 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; (61a) and enforce foreclosure laws to facilitate private sector participation; (81e)

Encourage and promote the application of low-energy, environmentally sound and safe manufacturing technologies backed by appropriate norms and effective regulatory measures; (92b)

Improve policies that reduce environmental health hazards, and provide the informal sector and all workers with accessible information on how to enhance occupational safety and reduce health risks; (118c)

Develop and implement national and local plans, policies and specific cross-sectoral programmes, addressing all relevant chapters of Agenda 21; (137a)

Establish, equip and build capacity for monitoring and evaluating compliance with environmental regulations and effectiveness of enforcement at all levels; (137c)

Take necessary legislative action to improve education and enhance job training in order to improve the quality of the local workforce; restructure local industries, where appropriate; develop urban infrastructure and services; promote reliable, efficient and environmentally sound energy supply, enhance telecommunication networks; attract private investment; prevent crime and enhance public safety in order to make urban areas more attractive for economic, social and cultural activities; encourage sound financial practices at all levels of government; (161)

Develop, adopt and enforce appropriate norms and by laws for land use, building and planning standards that are based on professionally established hazard and vulnerability assessments; (172a)

Introduce a clear definition of roles and responsibilities and of communication channels between the various key functions of disaster preparedness and prevention, including assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement and emergency response; (175c)

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: 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; 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 organizations and the private sector; Develop information systems for networking, for accessing resources in a timely manner and for the exchange, transfer and sharing of experience, expertise, know-how and technology in human settlements development; When appropriate, encourage, within the context of transparency and accountability, as appropriate, the involvement of private-sector authorities, including non-governmental organizations, in improving public-sector management and administration and the formation of entities that are public in their function, private in their management and public-privately funded; (184 a, c-e)

Decentralization and local authorities

Local authorities and other interested parties, (who) are on the front line in achieving the goals of Habitat II. Although the structural causes of problems have often to be dealt with at the national and sometimes the international level, progress will depend to a large degree on local authorities, civic engagement and the forging of partnerships at all levels of government with the private sector, the cooperative sector, non-governmental and community-based organizations, workers and employers and civil society at large; (56)

Establish appropriate processes for coordination and decentralization that define clear local-level rights and responsibilities within the policy development process; (68.b)

To ensure effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks, Governments at the appropriate levels should: Examine and adopt, as appropriate, policies and legal frameworks from other States that are implementing decentralization effectively; Review and revise, as appropriate, legislation to increase local autonomy and participation in decision-making, implementation, and resource mobilization and use, especially with respect to human, technical and financial resources and local enterprise development, within the overall framework of a national, social, economic and environmental strategy, and encourage the participation of the inhabitants in decision making regarding their cities, neighborhoods or dwellings; Develop education in citizenship to emphasize the role of individuals as actors in their communities; Support local authorities reviewing revenue-generating mechanisms; Strengthen, as necessary, the capacity of educational, research and training institutions to provide continuous training to local elected officials, managers and professionals on urban-related issues, such as planning, land and resource management techniques, and municipal finance; Facilitate the exchange of technology, experience and management expertise vertically and horizontally between government and local authorities in the delivery of services, expenditure control, resource mobilization, partnership building and local-enterprise development, inter alia, through technical twinning and exchange of experience programs; 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; Encourage institutionalization of broad-based participation, including consultative mechanisms, in decision making and management processes at the local level; Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to engage the local private and community sectors in goal-setting and in establishing local priorities and environmentally sound standards for infrastructure development, services delivery and local economic development; Promote policy dialogue among all levels of government and the private and community sectors and other representatives of civil society to improve planning and implementation; Within the framework of governance, establish public-private citizens' partnerships for urban innovation, and analyze, evaluate and disseminate information on successful partnerships; Collect, analyze 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; Reinforce measures to eradicate corruption and ensure greater transparency, efficiency, accountability, responsiveness and community participation in the management of local resources; Enable local authorities and their associations/networks to take initiatives in national and international cooperation and, in particular, to share good practices and innovative approaches to sustainable human settlements management; Strengthen the capacities of both central and local government through training courses on urban finance and management for elected government officials and managers; Develop and/or strengthen, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, within their respective mandates, as well as associations/networks

of local authorities and other international associations and organizations, global and easily accessible information networks to facilitate the exchange of experience, know-how and expertise; (180 a-p)

Provide accessible, affordable, impartial, prompt and humane local systems of justice by, inter alia, facilitating and strengthening, where appropriate, existing traditional institutions and procedures for the resolution of disputes and conflicts; (123h)

Introduce a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of, and communication channels among, the various key functions and actors in pre event disaster management, mitigation and preparedness activities, such as hazard and risk assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement and emergency response; (174d)

Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and civil society to review social, economic and environmental policies affecting their communities and to set local priorities and contribute to the setting of local standards for services in such areas as basic education, child care, public health, public safety, drug-abuse awareness and environmental management; (182p)

Participation and human rights

Establish legislative, institutional and financial frameworks that will enable the private sector, nongovernmental organizations 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; (59)

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

Protection from forced evictions that are contrary to the law, taking human rights into consideration; (61b)

Avoid inappropriate interventions that stifle supply and distort demand for housing and services; (72b)

Support professional groups offering technical planning, design, construction, maintenance, rehabilitation and management assistance to community-based organizations, NGOs and others engaged in self-help and community-based development; (90l)

Institutionalize a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourages open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties, with special attention to the needs and priorities of women, minorities, children, youth, people with disabilities, older persons and persons living in poverty and exclusion; (113l)

Redirect public resources to encourage community-based management of services and infrastructure and promote 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; (116b)

Involve marginalized and/or disadvantaged groups and individuals in the planning, decision-making, monitoring and assessment related to human settlements development; (117c)

Support mechanisms for consultations and partnerships among interested parties to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local Agenda 21 initiatives and specific cross-sectoral environmental health programmes; (137i)

Ensure the participation in disaster planning and management of all interested parties, in such areas as water and food storage, fuel and first aid, and in disaster prevention through activities that build a culture of safety; (174e) Promote and encourage broad based participation in disaster preparedness activities by giving to the population living in the vicinity of a dangerous activity adequate and regular information on the potential hazards; (175d)

Establish agenda-setting participatory mechanisms, enabling individuals, families, communities, indigenous people and civil society to play a proactive role in identifying local needs and priorities and formulating new policies, plans and projects; (180h)

Removing legal barriers to participation in public life by socially marginalized groups and promoting non-discrimination legislation; (182g)

Consider establishing private-public, community sector, business and economic forums to exchange management know-how and experience; (194b)

Consider developing mediation programmes to resolve conflicts, including those between competing actors over access to and distribution and use of resources in human settlements and train civil society in their use. (194f)

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Goals and Principles

Promote healthy living environments, especially through the provision of adequate quantities of safe water and effective management of waste; (ID:10)

Build together a world where everyone can live in a safe home with the promise of a decent life of dignity, good health, safety, happiness and hope; (ID:15)

(T)he international community, in convening Habitat II, has decided that a concerted global approach could greatly enhance progress towards achieving these goals. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, environmental degradation, demographic changes, widespread and persistent poverty, and social and economic inequality can have local, cross-national and global impacts. The sooner communities, local governments and partnerships among the public, private and community sectors join efforts to create comprehensive, bold and innovative strategies for shelter and human settlements, the better the prospects will be for the safety, health and well-being of people and the brighter the outlook for solutions to global environment and social problems; (H2:5)

Appropriate efforts and technologies for rural development can help to reduce, inter alia, imbalances, unsustainable practices, poverty, isolation, environmental pollution and insecure land tenure. Such efforts can contribute to improving the linkage of rural settlements with the mainstream of economic, social and cultural life, to assuring sustainable communities and safe environments, and to reducing pressures on urban growth; (H2:9)

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; (H2:11)

Civil, ethnic and religious strife, violations of human rights, alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation, economic imbalances, poverty, organized crime, terrorism in all its forms, and corruption are destructive to human settlements and should therefore be denounced and discouraged by all States, which should cooperate 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; (H2:25)

People's need for community and their aspirations for more liveable neighbourhoods and settlements should guide the process of design, management and maintenance of human settlements. Objectives of this endeavour include protecting public health, providing for safety and security, education and social integration, promoting equality and respect for diversity and cultural identities, increased accessibility for persons with disabilities, and preservation of historic, spiritual, religious and culturally significant buildings and districts, respecting local landscapes and treating the local environment with respect and care; (H2:30)

Governments at all appropriate levels, including local authorities, have a responsibility to ensure access to education and to protect their population's health, safety and general welfare; (H2:32)

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; (H2:36)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

Adequate livelihood

Improve 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; (39), especially for people living in poverty, women and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; (40c)

Provide all people, in particular those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe and productive life in harmony with nature and their cultural heritage and spiritual and cultural values, and which ensures economic and social development and environmental protection; (42)

Support progress and security for people and communities, whereby every member of society is enabled to satisfy his or her basic human needs and to realize his or her personal dignity, safety, creativity and life aspirations; (45d)

To safeguard the health, safety, welfare and improved living environment of all people and to provide adequate and affordable basic infrastructure and services, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should promote: supply of and access to adequate quantities of safe drinking water; Adequate sanitation and environmentally sound waste management; Adequate mobility through access to affordable and physically accessible public transport and other communications facilities; The provision of social services, especially for underserved groups and communities; A high level of safety and public security; The use of a variety of planning mechanisms that provide for meaningful participation to reduce the negative impacts on biological resources, such as prime agricultural land and

forests, that may arise from human settlements activities; Planning and implementation systems that integrate all of the above factors into the design and operation of sustainable human settlements; (85 a-c, e, i-k)

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; (93)

To prevent, reduce and eliminate violence and crime, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all interested parties, should: Design, create and maintain livable human settlements that encourage the use of public spaces as centres of community life so that they do not become places for criminal activity; Promote awareness and provide education in an effort to mitigate crime and violence and strengthen society; Promote crime prevention through social development by finding ways to help communities deal with underlying factors that undermine community safety and result in crime by addressing such critical problems as poverty, inequality, family stress, unemployment, absence of educational and vocational opportunities, and lack of health care, including mental health services; Encourage youth and children, in particular street children, to become interested parties in their own future and in their community's future through education, recreation, and job training and counselling that can attract private-sector investment and support from nonprofit organizations; 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 and mechanisms of violence against women; Establish programmes designed to improve the skills of local leadership in group facilitation, conflict resolution and intervention; As appropriate, promote personal security and reduce fear by improving police services, making them more accountable to the communities they serve, and by encouraging and facilitating, whenever appropriate, the formation of lawful community based crime prevention measures and systems; Provide accessible, affordable, impartial, prompt and humane local systems of justice by, inter alia, facilitating and strengthening, where appropriate, existing traditional institutions and procedures for the resolution of disputes and conflicts; 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; Take concerted and urgent action to dismantle international and national sex trafficking networks; (123 a-j) (161d)

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; (136f)

Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and civil society to review social, economic and environmental policies affecting their communities and to set local priorities and contribute to the setting of local standards for services in such areas as basic education, child care, public health, public safety, drug-abuse awareness and environmental management; (182p)

Sustainable development

Promote locally available, appropriate, affordable, safe, efficient and environmentally sound construction methods and technologies in all countries, particularly in developing countries, at the local,

national, regional and subregional levels that emphasize optimal use of local human resources and encourage energy-saving methods and are protective of human health; (40f)

Provide adequate and integrated environmental infrastructure facilities in all settlements as soon as possible with a view to improving health by ensuring access for all people to sufficient, continuous and safe freshwater supplies, sanitation, drainage and waste disposal services, with a special emphasis on providing facilities to segments of the population living in poverty; (43d) (96h)

Provide, where appropriate, targeted and transparent subsidies, social services and various types of safety nets to the most vulnerable groups; (97a; 98e; 116a)

Support the economic activities of indigenous people in order to improve their conditions and development and to secure their safe interaction with larger economies; (122b)

To improve environmental conditions and reduce industrial and domestic waste and other forms of health risks in human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels and in partnership with all interested parties should: Develop and implement national and local plans, policies and specific cross-sectoral programmes addressing all relevant chapters of Agenda 21; Develop laws and policies that specify appropriate ambient environmental quality levels and set targets for environmental improvements and identify instruments for their achievement appropriate to national and subnational priorities and conditions; Establish, equip and build capacity for monitoring and evaluating compliance with environmental regulations and effectiveness of enforcement at all levels; Set environmental standards so as to facilitate the selection and development of appropriate technologies and their appropriate use; Identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse effects of policies and programmes on the human health or the environment of people living in poverty and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; Provide incentives and disincentives to promote the use of clean production and energy- and water-saving processes and technologies that, among other things, can increase economic opportunities in the areas of environmental technology, environmental clean-up and environmentally friendly products and can improve the attractiveness and competitiveness of human settlements for economic investments; Provide guidelines and training for the application of procedures for the assessment of environmental health impacts; Undertake environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments for development plans and projects, respectively, that may significantly affect the quality of the environment; Support mechanisms for consultations and partnerships among interested parties to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local Agenda 21 initiatives and specific cross-sectoral environmental health programmes; (137 a-i)

Introduce appropriate measures to promote the use of renewable and safe sources of energy and to improve the efficiency of energy use in human settlements, while ensuring that people living in poverty and their families are not disadvantaged; (146b)

Encourage the use of safe industrial and agricultural waste products and other types of low energy and recycled building materials in construction; (146k)

Promote and implement disincentive measures that discourage the increasing growth of private motorized traffic and reduce congestion, which is damaging environmentally, economically and socially, and to human health and safety, through pricing, traffic regulation, parking and land use planning and

traffic abatement methods, and by providing or encouraging effective alternative transport methods, particularly to the most congested areas; (151d)

Strive for full-cost recovery for urban services, with the exception of public safety services, through user charges, while at the same time addressing the needs of the poor, inter alia, through pricing policies and, where appropriate, transparent subsidies; (189e)

Risk reduction and disaster response

Take appropriate action to manage the use of heavy metals, particularly lead, safely and effectively and, where possible, eliminating uncontrolled exposure; (43aa)

Provide institutional support should also in the form of industrial standards and quality control, with particular attention to energy efficiency, health, accessibility, and consumer safety and protection; (88)

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

Encourage and promote the application of low-energy, environmentally sound and safe manufacturing technologies backed by appropriate norms and effective regulatory measures; (92b)

Improve policies that reduce environmental health hazards, and provide the informal sector and all workers with accessible information on how to enhance occupational safety and reduce health risks; (118c)

Pay special attention to the quality of its design, including the scale and height, proper maintenance, regular technical inspection and safety measures in housing design; (134; 136h)

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; (136d)

Develop, where appropriate, criteria for maximum permitted and safe levels of noise exposure and promote noise assessment control as part of environmental health programmes; (136g)

Promote safe and healthy workplace conditions for men and women; (136l)

Protect existing forest resources and promote, where possible, afforestation around and within human settlements in order to fulfil basic needs relating to energy, construction, recreation and food security; (139b)

Promote the development and use of efficient and safe sanitary systems, such as dry toilets, for the recycling of sewage and organic components of municipal solid waste into useful products such as fertilizers and biogas; (141j)

Develop, adopt and enforce appropriate norms and by laws for land use, building and planning standards that are based on professionally established hazard and vulnerability assessments; 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; Encourage continued mobilization of domestic and international resources for disaster reduction activities; Promote and disseminate information on disaster resistant construction methods and technologies for buildings and public works in general; Devise programmes to facilitate, where possible, voluntary relocation and access by all people to areas that are less disaster prone; Develop training programmes on disaster resistant construction methods for designers, contractors and builders. Some programmes should be directed particularly towards small enterprises, which build the great majority of housing and other small buildings in the developing countries; Take measures to upgrade, where necessary, the resistance of important infrastructure, lifelines and critical facilities, in particular where damage can cause secondary disasters and/or constrain emergency relief operations; (172a-g)

With respect to the mitigation of disasters, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all interested parties, should, as appropriate: Establish a comprehensive information system that identifies and assesses the risks involved in disaster-prone areas and integrate it into human settlements planning and design; Promote and support low-cost, attainable solutions and innovative approaches to addressing critical risks of vulnerable communities through, inter alia, risk-mapping and community-focused vulnerability reduction programmes; Encourage, promote and support low-cost, attainable solutions, innovative approaches and appropriate building standards to address critical risks of valuable communities, through, inter alia, risk-mapping and community-focused vulnerability reduction programmes; Introduce a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of, and communication channels among, the various key functions and actors in pre-event disaster management, mitigation and preparedness activities, such as hazard and risk assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement and emergency response; Promote and encourage all parts of society to participate in disaster preparedness planning in such areas as water and food storage, fuel and first-aid, and in disaster prevention through activities that build a culture of safety; Strengthen and/or develop global, regional, national and local early-warning systems to alert populations to impending disasters; (174 a-f)

In order to prevent technological and industrial disasters, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, as appropriate, should: Pursue the objectives of preventing major technological accidents and limiting their consequences through, inter alia, land-use policies and the promotion of safe technology; Take the necessary measures to control the siting of new developments surrounding dangerous industrial activities that may be liable to increase the risk of the effects of a major accident through appropriate consultation procedures to facilitate the implementation of the policies established under subparagraph (a) above; Introduce a clear definition of roles and responsibilities and of communication channels between the various key functions of disaster preparedness and prevention, including assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement and emergency response; Promote and encourage broad-based participation in disaster preparedness activities by giving to the population living in the vicinity of a dangerous activity adequate and regular information on the potential hazards; Strengthen and/or develop global, regional and local early-warning systems to alert populations in case of a major technological accident. (175 a-e)

GENDER EQUALITY - WOMEN

Goals and Principles

We recognize the particular needs of women (...) for safe, healthy and secure living conditions. We shall intensify our efforts to eradicate poverty and discrimination, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and to provide for basic needs, such as education, nutrition and life-span health care services, and, especially, adequate shelter for all. To this end, we commit ourselves to improving the living conditions in human settlements in ways that are consonant with local needs and realities, and we acknowledge the need to address the global, economic, social and environmental trends to ensure the creation of better living environments for all people. We shall also ensure the full and equal participation of all women and men (...) in political, economic and social life. We shall promote (...) gender equality in policies, programmes and projects for shelter and sustainable human settlements development. We make these commitments with particular reference to the more than one billion people living in absolute poverty and to the members of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups identified in the Habitat Agenda; (ID:7)

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

We shall also enhance the role of women; (ID:12)

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; (H2:15)

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; (H2:27)

The family is the basic unit of society and, as such, should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood; (H231)

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 and equal access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and 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 are 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 (...); (H2:36)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

In implementing these commitments, special attention should be given to the circumstances and needs of (...) women (...); (38)

Adequate livelihood

Provide legal security of tenure and equal access to land to all people, including women (...) and undertaking legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; (40b, 86g) 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; (79d, 86g)

Promote access for all people to safe drinking water, sanitation and other basic services, facilities and amenities, especially for (...) women (...); (40c)

Eradicate and ensure legal protection from discrimination in access to shelter and basic services, without distinction of any kind, such as (...) sex (...); (40j) Take into consideration the needs of women in making technological choices in respect of the level of and access to basic services; (141k)

Develop housing that can serve as a functional workplace for women and men; (43cc)

Encourage community mortgage programmes that are accessible to people living in poverty, especially women, [such as] savings and credit cooperatives, credit unions, cooperative banks, cooperative insurance enterprises and other non-bank financial institutions, and establish savings mechanisms in the

informal sector, particularly for women, in order to increase their productive capacity by providing them with access to capital, resources, credit, land, technology and information so that they can raise their income and improve their living conditions and status within the household; (81j, 82c, 82e)

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; full range of affordable health care services, including those related to reproductive health care, which includes family planning and sexual health; safe drinking water and sanitation; adequate shelter; and access to open and green spaces, giving priority to the needs and rights of women (...); (116a, 136f)

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 (...); (118a)

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

Promote and strengthen programmes that integrate credit, finance, vocational training and technological transfer programmes in support of small and micro-enterprises and enterprises in the cooperative sector, particularly those developed and utilized by women; (160b)

Participation and governance

Promote, 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 recognizing and respecting the rights of all, especially of women(...); (43a)

Promote gender-sensitive institutional and legal frameworks (...); (45f)

Institutionalize a participatory approach and promote representative structures to sustainable human settlements development, planning and management, through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties, especially women (...); (45h, 113l, 119c)

Promote gender-sensitive capacity building at the national and local levels conducive to civic engagement and broad-based participation in human settlements development (45f) Facilitate participation by tenants in the management of public and community-based housing and by women and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the planning and implementation of urban and rural development (45m)

Integrate gender perspectives in human settlements related legislation, policies, programmes and projects through the application of gender-sensitive analysis; Integrate 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; (46a, 46d)

Formulate and strengthen policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision-making; (46e)

Provid[e] legal security of tenure and equal access to land for all, including women (...) 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 penalized for their status; (61b)

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; (72e)

Involve, encourage and assist, local communities, particularly women (...) (and) facilitate regular dialogue and gender-sensitive participation (...) in production, planning, design and construction of houses, provision of services, water resource conservation, management and technological choice, community facilities and their operation and maintenance and social-welfare programmes at all levels and stages of decision-making; (74f, 86b, 86c, 90o, 124b)

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; (78e)

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; 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; (78c, 78f)

Encourage public participation in assessing real user needs, especially gender needs, as an integrated action of the planning and design process; (90b)

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 (...) women (...) in the identification of public service needs, spatial planning and the design, provision and maintenance of urban infrastructure and open and green spaces; (116b)

Adopt, where appropriate, by-laws, standards and norms and develop planning guidelines that take into consideration the needs and situations of women (...) and girls (...) 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; 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; 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(...) in social, economic and political life, including in the formulation, implementation and follow-up of public policies and programmes; set up monitoring mechanisms in government structures; and integrate the results into mainstream policies for sustainable human settlements development; Enhance community awareness of issues facing women

living in poverty, the homeless, migrants, refugees, other displaced women in need of international protection, and internally displaced women, especially those issues related to physical and sexual abuse, and design appropriate community responses; Ensure equal access to housing, land and public services in the urban and rural areas (...); (119a-l)

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 cooperatives, as well as their membership in other cooperatives; Promote equal access to all levels of education for girls and women; (119d, 119g)

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, in particular, those designed to address and prevent environmental degradation of land; (122c)

Incorporate a gender perspective in policy, [metropolitan] planning and management strategies; (186b)

Capacity development

Foster 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 (...); (45i)

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; Develop regularization programmes and formulate and implement such programmes and projects in consultation with the concerned population and organized groups, ensuring the full and equal participation of women and taking into account the[ir] needs; (78b, 78d)

Strengthen the capacities of training institutions and non-governmental organizations, [and] 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 (...) that ensure their participation at all stages of the shelter development process; (90i, 90d)

Promoting equality and equity, incorporating gender considerations and the full and equal participation of women 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; (182j)

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 (...) in staff structures and decision-making; (184a)

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 organizations and the private sector, focusing on: 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; (184c, c(iii))

Develop or, where necessary, create a core of professional staff 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 (186g)

Safety and security

Promote shelter and support basic services and facilities for education and health for (...) women and children who are survivors of family violence or subjected to violence; (...); (40l, 97c)

Provid[e] legal security of tenure and equal access to land for all, including women (...) 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 penalized for their status; (61b)

Promote mechanisms for the protection of women who risk losing their homes and properties when their husbands die; (78e)

Encourage lending institutions to recognize that community-based organizations may act as guarantors for those who, because of poverty or discrimination, lack other sources of equity, giving particular attention to the needs of individual women; (79f(v))

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

Eliminate the sexual and economic exploitation of young women (...), improving their quality of life and increasing their contribution to sustainable human settlements development; (120f) [and] [t]ake concerted and urgent action to dismantle international and national sex trafficking networks; (123j)

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 and mechanisms of violence against women; (123e)

Adopt integrated, transparent and gender-sensitive environmental, social and economic policies and programmes for distressed areas and areas characterized by social exclusion; (124a)

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

Promote safe and healthy workplace conditions for men and women; (136l)

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

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

Ensure that the particular needs of women (...) are considered in all communications, rescue efforts, relocation, rehabilitation and reconstruction; (176j)

Data and research

Develop and evaluate policies, programmes and practices to reduce the undesired adverse effects and improve the positive impact of structural adjustment and economic transition on sustainable human settlements development, especially on (...) women, inter alia, through reviewing [them] by means of gender-sensitive social impact assessments (...), gender-sensitive indicators, disaggregated data and appropriate data-collection methods (...); (43w, 51, 126d)

Develop conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating gender perspectives in human settlements planning, development and evaluation, including the development of indicators; Collect, analyze and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information on human settlements issues, including statistical means that recognize and make visible the unremunerated work of women, for use in policy and programme planning and implementation; (46b, 46c)

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

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

Generate and disseminate, [and] where necessary, set up or enhance databases, including, inter alia, data disaggregated by gender and age, and conduct data collection, compilation and analysis to provide baseline information on housing and human settlement issues that can be used to better plan for population growth in cities, towns and villages; (119j, 127b)

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 women with low incomes, indigenous women and women belonging to minorities; (136c)

Enhance the performance of local authorities by undertaking data collection, disaggregated by gender (...) 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; (180g)

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; (180l)

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. (191i)

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Goals and Principles

As human beings are at the centre of our concern for sustainable development, they are the basis for our actions as in implementing the Habitat Agenda. We recognize the particular needs of women, children and youth for safe, healthy and secure living conditions. We shall intensify our efforts to eradicate poverty and discrimination, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and to provide for basic needs, such as education, nutrition and life-span health care services, and, especially, adequate shelter for all. We shall also ensure the full and equal participation of all women and men, and the effective participation of youth, in political, economic and social life; (ID:7)

The needs of children and youth, particularly with regard to their living environment, have to be taken fully into account. Special attention needs to be paid to the participatory processes dealing with the shaping of cities, towns and neighbourhoods; this is in order to secure the living conditions of children and of youth and to make use of their insight, creativity and thoughts on the environment. Special attention must be paid to the shelter needs of vulnerable children, such as street children, refugee children and children who are victims of sexual exploitation. Parents and other persons legally responsible for children have responsibilities, rights and duties, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to address these needs; (H2:13)

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; (H2:27)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

In implementing these (all) commitments, special attention should be given to the specific needs and circumstances of children, particularly street children (...); (38)

Adequate livelihood

Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for (...) children who are survivors of family violence (40I) Promoting socially integrated and accessible human settlements, including appropriate facilities for health and education, and recognizing and respecting the rights of all, especially of children; (43a)

Adequate shelter must be recognized as an important component of the particular care and assistance to which children and their families, as well as children living outside or without families, have a right. Special consideration must be given to the needs of children living in difficult circumstances; (94)

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

Children are particularly vulnerable to harmful urban environments and must be protected. It is therefore essential to take a holistic approach to health, whereby both prevention and care are placed within the context of environmental policy, supported by effective management systems and plans of action incorporating targets that reflect local needs and capacities; (60)

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; (120f)

Ensure that children have access to the natural world on a daily basis through free play outdoors, and establish education programmes to help children investigate their community environments, including natural ecosystems; (139e)

Promoting assistance for activities in the field of shelter and human settlements development in favour of people living in poverty, particularly (...) street children, through specific targeted grants; (204y)

Participation and governance

Involve local communities, particularly children, in decision-making and in setting priorities for the provision of services and standards for community facilities and in the operation and maintenance of those facilities; (86b,86c, 213)

Integrate youth concerns into all relevant national, subnational and local policies, strategies, programmes and projects; develop a core capacity for institution-strengthening and capacity-building that includes needs of children and youth as integral components; (120a, 184cii, 45f, 113l, 182m,176j)

Enable and promote full potential of youth by supporting and valuing their ability to play an active and creative role in building sustainable communities and adequate shelter for all; (120b, 123d, 123i, 182)

Facilitate the participation of local organizations, including youth groups, children's groups and other organizations based in the community, in the decision-making processes concerning social welfare programmes; (124b)

Ensure the participation in disaster planning and management of all interested parties, including children, in recognition of their particular vulnerability to human-made and natural disasters; (172b)

Capacity development

Working in partnership with youth in order to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare youth for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development (45e)

Encourage, in cooperation with relevant interested parties, including parents with respect to their children's education, the development of school curricula, education programmes and community-based centres aimed at developing understanding and cooperation among members of diverse cultures; (117d)

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

Provide equal access to basic education and increased relevance and quality education, paying special attention to people living in poverty and to youth living in rural areas and addressing constraints created by distance, lack of educational facilities and social or economic barriers; (120c, 120d)

Utilizing both formal and non-formal educational and training activities and programmes, promote—in partnership with youth—employment programmes and vocational skills development that enhance youth's capacity to participate fully in the social, economic and political processes of human settlements; (120e)

Encourage and support local heritage and cultural institutions, associations and communities in their conservation and rehabilitation efforts and inculcate in children and youth an adequate sense of their heritage; (120g, 153c)

Implement programmes that encourage the use, especially by children, youth and educational institutions, of public libraries and communication networks; (191d)

Data and research

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; (51)

Adequate research to assess how and to what extent women and children are particularly susceptible or exposed to environmental degradation, disasters and hazards, including, as necessary, research and data collection on specific groups of women and children, particularly women with low incomes, indigenous women and women belonging to minorities; (136c, 171)

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 (191i)

Continue to identify and disseminate best practices, and develop and apply shelter and human settlements development indicators, including those that reflect the rights and well-being of children. (241)

OLDER PERSONS

Goals and Principles

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 recognized 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; (H2:17)

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; (H2:27)

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 and equal access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and 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 are 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 (...); (H2:36)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

In implementing these (all) commitments, special attention should be given to the circumstances and needs of (...) older people (...); (38)

Adequate livelihood

Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for the (...) older persons; (40I)

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

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

In order to achieve sustainable transport in human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnership with the private sector, the community sector and other relevant interested parties, should: Support an integrated transport policy approach that explores the full array of technical and management options and pays due attention to the needs of all population groups, especially those whose mobility is constrained because of disability, age, poverty or any other factor; (151a)

Participation and governance

Institutionalize a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties, with special attention to the needs and priorities of (...) older persons and persons living in poverty and exclusion; (113l)

Encourage the establishment of programmes and projects based on voluntary participation, especially of (...) older persons, to prevent violence, including violence in the home, and crime; (123i)

Promote the active role of older persons as custodians of cultural heritage, knowledge, trades and skills; (153f)

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; (172b)

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 organizations and the private sector, focusing on: 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; (184cii)

Governments as enabling partners should create and strengthen effective partnerships with (...) the elderly (...) and communities, local authorities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in each country. National mechanisms should be established or improved, as appropriate, to coordinate actions at all relevant government levels that have an impact on human settlements and to assess this impact prior to governmental actions; (214)

Data and research

(...) 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. (...); (51)

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 the results into mainstream policies for sustainable human settlements development; (119j)

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; 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. (180g and l)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Goals and Principles

In shelter and urban development and management policies, particular attention should be given to the needs and participation of indigenous people. These policies should fully respect their identity and culture and provide an appropriate environment that enables them to participate in political, social and economic life; (H2: 14)

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; (H2:27)

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 and equal access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and 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 (...); (H2:36)

In many countries, rural populations, including indigenous people, play an important role in ensuring food security and in sustaining the social and ecological balance over large tracts of land and thus contribute significantly to the task of protecting biodiversity and fragile ecosystems and to the sustainable use of biological resources; (H2:164)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

In implementing these (all) commitments, special attention should be given to the circumstances and needs of (...) indigenous people (...); (H2:38)

Adequate livelihood

Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for the (...) indigenous people (...); (40I)

Protecting, within the national context, the legal traditional rights of indigenous people to land and other resources, as well as strengthening of land management; (40m)

Protecting and maintaining the historical, cultural and natural heritage, including traditional shelter and settlement patterns, as appropriate, of indigenous and other people, as well as landscapes and urban flora and fauna in open and green spaces; (43r)

Encourage the development of environmentally sound and affordable construction methods and the production and distribution of building materials, including strengthening the indigenous building materials industry, based as far as possible on locally available resources; (69d)

Promote comprehensive rural development through such measures as equal access to land, land improvement, economic diversification, the development of small and medium-scale cities in rural areas and, where appropriate, indigenous land settlements; (76m)

Participation and governance

Institutionalizing 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 (...) indigenous people, including the interests of children and youth; (45h)

Encourage and support research and studies to promote and develop indigenous planning and design techniques, norms and standards to match the actual needs of local communities; (90a)

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

In order to promote the continuing progress of indigenous people and to 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: Take particular actions to enhance their productive capacities, ensuring their full and equal access to social and economic services and their participation in the elaboration and implementation of policies that affect their development; Support the economic activities of indigenous people in order to improve their conditions and development and to secure their safe interaction with larger economies; 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; Address the particular needs of indigenous children and their families, especially those living in poverty, thereby enabling them to benefit fully from economic and social development programmes; (122 a-d)

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 women with low incomes, indigenous women and women belonging to minorities; (136c)

Establishing agenda-setting participatory mechanisms enabling individuals, families, communities, indigenous people and civil society to play a proactive role in identifying local needs and priorities and formulating new policies, plans and projects; (182h)

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 organizations in each country (...); (213)

Capacity development

Promote education and training programmes and establish procedures for the full participation of rural and indigenous people in the setting of priorities for balanced and ecologically viable regional development; (167a)

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 organizations and the private sector, focusing on: The development of a multisectoral approach to human settlements development that includes the unique contributions and institutions of indigenous and immigrant people. (184ci)

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Goals and Principles

Encountering disabilities is a part of normal life. Persons with disabilities have not always had the opportunity to participate fully and equally in human settlements development and management, including decision-making, often owing to social, economic, attitudinal and physical barriers, and discrimination. Such barriers should be removed and the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities should be fully integrated into shelter and sustainable human settlement plans and policies to create access for all; (H2:16)

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 (...); (H2:27)

The quality of life of all people depends, among other economic, social, environmental and cultural factors, on the physical conditions and spatial characteristics of our villages, towns and cities. City layout and aesthetics, land-use patterns, population and building densities, transportation and ease of access for all to basic goods, services and public amenities have a crucial bearing on the liveability of settlements. This is particularly important to vulnerable and disadvantaged persons, many of whom face barriers in access to shelter and in participating in shaping the future of their settlements. People's need for community and their aspirations for more-liveable neighbourhoods and settlements should guide the process of design, management and maintenance of human settlements. Objectives of this endeavour include protecting public health, providing for safety and security, education and social integration, promoting equality and respect for diversity and cultural identities, increased accessibility for persons with disabilities, and preservation of historic, spiritual, religious and culturally significant buildings and districts, respecting local landscapes and treating the local environment with respect and care; (H2:30)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

In implementing these commitments, special attention should be given to the circumstances and needs of (...) persons with disabilities(...); (38)

Adequate livelihood

Design and implement standards that provide accessibility also to persons with disabilities in accordance with the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; (40g)

Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for (...) persons with disabilities (...); (40l)

Promote, 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 recognizing and respecting the rights of all, especially (...) persons with disabilities(...); (43a)

By improving quality and reducing the cost of production, housing and other structures will last longer, be better protected against disasters, and be affordable to low-income populations and accessible to persons with disabilities, which will provide a better living environment (...); (88)

Adopt policies ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to new public buildings and facilities, public housing and public transport systems. Furthermore, during renovation of existing buildings, similar measures should be adopted whenever feasible; (69c)

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, (...) and abiding by the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; (96e)

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

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

Stimulate 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; (118a)

In order to promote disability-sensitive planning and management of human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should: and also encourage access to existing public buildings and facilities, housing and transport, wherever feasible, especially by taking advantage of renovation; Eliminate communication barriers to reduce the social and physical isolation faced by persons with disabilities by measures such as the production and dissemination of information, especially public information, in appropriate formats; Promote equal access to all levels of education and skills development for persons with disabilities; Enhance community awareness of health-care issues facing persons with disabilities and design appropriate community responses; Provide persons with disabilities affordable and quality health care; Develop and implement programmes that enable people with disabilities to have an equal opportunity to realize an income sufficient to attain an

adequate standard of living; Promote sports, recreational and cultural activities for persons with disabilities; (121b, d, f, h, j, k and m)

Improve the planning and design of human settlements so as to respond specifically to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people, especially people with disabilities; (124d)

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

Support an integrated transport policy approach that explores the full array of technical and management options and pays due attention to the needs of all population groups, especially those whose mobility is constrained because of disability (...); (151a)

Ensure that the accessibility concerns of people with disabilities are incorporated in conservation and rehabilitation projects; (154j)

Implement appropriate basic social programmes and adequate resource allocation, in particular those measures affecting (...) people with disabilities (...); (162c)

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

Give special attention to providing access to these new technologies for persons with disabilities (Information and communication); (191g)

Promot[e] assistance for activities in the field of shelter and human settlements development in favour of (...) people with disabilities (...) through specific targeted grants; (204y)

Participation and governance

Eradicate and ensure legal protection from discrimination in access to shelter and basic services, without distinction of any kind, (...) similar protection should be ensured against discrimination on the grounds of disability or age; (40j)

Promote equal access and full participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of human settlements and providing adequate policies and legal protection against discrimination on grounds of disabilities; (43v)

Institutionalizing 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 (...) persons with disabilities (...); (45h)

All addressed important issues of people-centred sustainable development, including sustained economic growth and equity, for which 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; (57)

Eradicate legal and social barriers to the equal and equitable access to land, especially the access of (...) people with disabilities and those belonging to vulnerable groups, Governments at the appropriate

levels, in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the cooperative sector and community-based organizations, should: Develop regularization programmes and formulate and implement such programmes and projects in consultation with the concerned population and organized groups, ensuring the full and equal participation of women and taking into account the needs differentiated by (...) disability (...); (78a)

Facilitate the efforts of (...) organizations of people with disabilities and other associations of the populations concerned to set up their own cooperatively organized or local financial institutions and mechanisms; (82e)

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

Involve, encourage and assist, as appropriate, local communities, particularly (...) persons with disabilities, in setting standards for community facilities and in the operation and maintenance of those facilities; (86c)

Support non-governmental organizations and other groups to ensure full and equal participation of (...) persons with disabilities in the planning, design and construction of houses to suit their specific individual and family requirements; (90o)

Institutionalize a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties, with special attention to the needs and priorities of (...) people with disabilities (...); (113l)

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 with disabilities (...) in the identification of public service needs, spatial planning and the design, provision and maintenance of urban infrastructure and open and green spaces; (116b)

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, implementation and follow-up of public policies and programmes; (119e)

In order to promote disability-sensitive planning and management of human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should: Promote the adoption of laws, by-laws, standards and norms and develop planning guidelines and programmes that take into consideration the specific needs of persons with disabilities, including the chronically ill, in all planning, development and decision making in relation to human settlements; Encourage the adoption of laws and policies ensuring persons with disabilities full access to all new public buildings and facilities, public housing and public transport systems; (...) Promote representative structures, while ensuring the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities; Prepare and disseminate disaggregated data presented by age, sex and work status, set up monitoring mechanisms in government structures and integrate the results into mainstream policies for sustainable human settlements development; Recognize that people with disabilities can provide expertise in their own housing and community requirements, that they should

be decision makers with regard to housing appropriate for them and that they should be included as designers and implementers of such housing; Develop policies and guidelines and provide services that enable persons with disabilities to be housed in community-based settings; Consider in the planning process the fact that persons with disabilities often use their homes for business or market activities; (121a-c, e, g, i, l)

Capacity development

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 (...) persons with disabilities; (45i)

Eradicate legal and social barriers to the equal and equitable access to land, especially the access of (...) people with disabilities and those belonging to vulnerable groups, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the cooperative sector and community-based organizations, should: Address the (...) 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; (78d)

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 (...) persons with disabilities (...) and that ensure their participation at all stages of the shelter development process; (90i)

Promote and strengthen productive enterprises, including micro-enterprises and small-scale private and cooperative 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. (118i)

DISPLACED, MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Goals and Principles

In the case of international migration, migrants have needs for housing and basic services, education, employment and social integration without a loss of cultural identity, and they are to be given adequate protection and attention within host countries; (H2:8)

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; (H2:12)

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; (H2:27)

Solidarity with those belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including people living in poverty, as well as tolerance, non-discrimination and cooperation among all people, families and communities are foundations for social cohesion. Solidarity, cooperation and assistance should be enhanced by the international community as well as by States and all other relevant actors in response to the challenges of human settlements development. The international community and Governments at all appropriate levels are called upon to promote sound and effective policies and instruments, thereby strengthening cooperation among Governments and non-governmental organizations, as well as to mobilize complementary resources to meet these challenges; (H2:34)

Habitat Agenda Commitments and Actions

In implementing these (all) commitments, special attention should be given to the circumstances and needs of (...) refugees, displaced persons (...). special consideration should also be given to the needs of migrants; (38)

Adequate livelihood

Promoting access for all people to safe drinking water, sanitation and other basic services, facilities and amenities, especially for those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for the displaced persons who are

survivors of family violence and people belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including temporary shelter and basic services for refugees; (40c and l) (96h)

Providing continued international support to refugees in order to meet their needs and to assist in assuring them a just, durable solution in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and international law; (41) (119k) (202g)

Provide equal opportunities for a healthy and education, safe and productive life in harmony with nature and their cultural heritage and spiritual and cultural values, and which ensures economic and social development and environmental protection, thereby contributing to the achievement of national sustainable development goals; (...) Combat segregation and discriminatory and other exclusionary policies and practices; Identify and address adverse effects of policies and programmes on the human health or the environment (...); (42) (43a) (98d) (137e)

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; (51) (239)

Adopting policies aimed at making housing habitable, affordable and accessible (...) Shelter policies should respond to the diverse needs of those belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; (65) (71) (72g) (61civ, 97b)

Review and revise legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks that act as barriers within the shelter sectors; (96a, 96c) Monitor the impact of macroeconomic policies on shelter delivery systems (...) Integrate land and shelter policies with policies for reducing poverty and creating jobs (...); (67 b, 67e)

Develop, as appropriate, shelter solutions and flexible instruments for the regulation of housing markets, including the rental market, taking into account the special needs of vulnerable groups; (72h) (97c)

To eradicate legal and social barriers to the equal and equitable access to land, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups, Governments at the appropriate levels (...): Address the cultural, ethnic, religious, social and disability-based causes that result in the creation of barriers that lead to segregation and exclusion; Develop regularization programmes and formulate and implement such programmes and projects in consultation with the concerned population and organized groups; (78 a and d)

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; (93) (97a)

Consider becoming parties to the relevant instruments of the United Nations system that (...), 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 and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (...) (96e) To strengthen the support for the international protection of and assistance to refugees, especially refugee women and children, who are particularly vulnerable; (95)

Promote systems of public transport that are affordable and accessible in order to make a wider range of housing and jobs available to vulnerable groups; (96f) (150)

Work with non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations to assist members of vulnerable groups to obtain secure tenure; (98a) Protect all people from and provide legal protection and redress for forced evictions that are contrary to the law, taking human rights into consideration; when evictions are unavoidable, ensure that, as appropriate, alternative suitable solutions are provided; (98b) Promote and support self-help housing programmes and initiatives; (98c) Facilitate actions aimed at, inter alia, ensuring legal security of tenure, capacity-building and improving access to credit, which, apart from subsidies and other financial instruments, can provide safety nets that reduce vulnerability; (98e)

Facilitate the availability of legal information and assistance to vulnerable groups; (98g)

Promote the use of tools for disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness in order to reduce the vulnerability of populations to natural, man-made and technological disasters; (98h) (174b)

Ensure that the particular needs of vulnerable groups are considered in all communications, rescue efforts, relocation, rehabilitation and reconstruction; encourage the International Committee of the Red Cross to take action in periods of armed conflict in order to reduce the suffering of the victims of conflicts and displaced persons; (176j and m)

To improve shelter delivery systems: review and adjust the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework to respond to the special needs of those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; Periodically evaluate and, as necessary, revise policies and systems for financing shelter, taking into consideration the impact of such policies and systems on the environment, economic development and social welfare, especially their different effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; (70 d and e) Strengthening financial and technical assistance for community-based development and self-help programmes, and strengthening cooperation among Governments at all levels, community organizations, cooperatives (...) with the aim of mobilizing local 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 vulnerable and disadvantaged groups for shelter and human settlements development; (204q)

Improve policy dialogues and develop new initiatives to ensure that structural adjustment programmes promote adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, giving particular attention to people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups; (236b)

Participation and governance

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

Support, through legislation, incentives and other means, where appropriate, organizations of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups so that they may promote their interests and become involved in local and national economic, social and political decision-making and life of their community and country; (96b) (97d)

Provide vulnerable and disadvantaged groups with access to information and with opportunities to participate in the local decision-making process on community and shelter issues that will affect them; (96g) (98f)

Improve the planning and design of human settlements so as to respond specifically to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people, especially people with disabilities; (124d)

Promoting equality and equity, incorporating gender considerations and the full and equal participation of women, and involving vulnerable and disadvantaged 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; (182j)

Encourage international cooperation in order to address relevant impacts of international migration through, inter alia, technical assistance, management know-how and exchange of information; (202f)

Striving to ensure that structural adjustment programmes are consistent with the economic and social conditions, concerns, objectives and needs of each country, (...) and protect basic social programmes and expenditures, in particular those benefiting people living in poverty, women and vulnerable groups, from budget reductions; Promoting assistance for activities in the field of shelter and human settlements development in favour of people living in poverty, particularly vulnerable groups, such as refugees, internally displaced persons, through specific targeted grants; (204 d and y)

Governments as enabling partners should create and strengthen effective partnerships with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. (213)

INTERNATIONAL NORMS

The International normative frameworks cited in the Habitat Agenda:

- General Conference of International Labour Organization (GC ILO), [Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour](#) (No. 29), (1932)**;
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), [Charter of the United Nations](#), (1945)*;
- UNGA, [The Universal Declaration on Human Rights](#), A/RES/3/217A, (1948)*;
- GC ILO, [Convention concerning Migration for Employment](#) (No. 97), (1949)**;
- GC ILO, [Recommendation concerning Migration for Employment](#) (No. 86), (1949)**;
- UNGA, [Convention relating to the Status of Refugees](#) (1951)**;
- GC ILO, [Convention concerning Abolition of Forced Labour](#) (No. 105), (1957)**;
- UNGA, [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#), A/RES/51/80, (1965)**;
- UNGA, [International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), A/res/21/2200, (1966)**;
- UNGA, [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), A/res/21/2200A (1966)**;
- UNGA, [Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees](#) (1967)**;
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), [Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#), Paris, (1972)**;
- GC ILO, [Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers](#) (No. 143), (1975)**;
- GC ILO, [Recommendation concerning Migrant Workers](#) (No. 151), (1975)**;
- UNGA, [Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons](#), A/res/3447, (1975)†;
- UNGA, [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#), A/RES/34/180, (1979)**;
- UNGA, [World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons](#), A/res/37/52, (1982)†;
- UNGA, [International Year of Shelter for the Homeless](#), A/res/37/221, (1987)†;
- UNGA, [Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000](#), A/res/43/181, (1988)†;
- UNGA, [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), A/Res/44/25, (1989)**;
- [World Conference on Education for All](#), Jomtien (Thailand), 5–9 March 1990:
 - [World Declaration on Education for All](#)†
 - [Framework for Action to Meet the Basic Learning Needs](#)†
- [World Summit for Children](#), New York (USA), 29–30 September 1990:
 - [Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children](#)†
 - [Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration](#)†
- UNGA, [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#), A/res/45/158, (1990)**;
- [United Nations Conference on Environment & Development](#), Rio de Janeiro (Brasil), 3–14 June 1992:

- [Agenda 21](#)[†]
- [Rio Declaration on Environment and Development](#)[†]
- [Statement of Forest Principles](#)[†]
- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)^{**}
- [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#)^{**}
- [World Conference on Human Rights](#), Vienna (Austria) 14–25 June 1993:
 - [Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action](#)[†]
- UNGA, [Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities](#), A/Res/48/96, (1993)[†];
- [International Conference on Population and Development](#), Cairo (Egypt), 5–13 September 1994:
 - [Programme of Action](#)[†]
- [World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction](#), Yokohama (Japan) 23–27 May 1994:
 - [Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World](#)[†]
- Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown (Barbados), 25 April – 6 May 1994:
 - [Barbados Declaration and Programme of Action](#)[†]
- [Fourth World Conference on Women](#), Beijing (China), 4–15 September 1995:
 - [Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action](#)[†]
- [World Summit for Social Development](#), Copenhagen (Denmark), 6–12 March 1995:
 - [Copenhagen Declaration Social Development Declaration](#)[†]
 - [Programme of Action](#)[†]

Key to symbols:

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

The international normative documents developed after the adoption of Habitat Agenda or not mentioned in the Habitat Agenda²:

- UNGA, Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals Who are not Nationals of the Country in which They Live, [A/res/44/144](#), (1985)[†];
- UNGA, [International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction](#), A/RES/44/236, (1989) [†];
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 3](#) on the nature of states parties' obligations (1990)**;
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 18](#) on disabled women, (1991)**;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 4](#) on the right to adequate housing, (1992)**;
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), [General Recommendation No. 11](#) on non-citizens, (1993)**;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 5](#) on persons with disabilities, (1995)**;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 6](#) on the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons, (1996)**;
- CERD, [General Recommendation No. 22](#) on refugees and displaced persons, (1996)**;
- Human Rights Committee (HRC), [General Comment No. 25](#) on the right to participate in public affairs, voting rights and the right of equal access to public service (1996)**;
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 23](#) on women in political and public life (1997) **;
- CERD, [General Recommendation No. 23](#) on the rights of indigenous peoples, (1997)**;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 7](#) on the right to adequate housing: forced evictions, (1997)**;
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDaW), [General Recommendation No. 23](#) on women in political and public life, (1997)**;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 9](#) on the domestic application of the covenant, (1998) **;
- United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR), [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#), E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, (1998)[†];
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 24](#) on women and health (1999) **;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 13](#) on the right to education, (1999)**;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 12](#) on the right to adequate food, (1999)**;
- CEDaW, [General Recommendation No. 24](#) on women and health, (1999)**;
- HRC, [General Comment No. 27](#) on freedom of movement, (1999) **;
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 14](#) on the right to the highest attainable standard of health, (2000)**;
- HRC, [General Comment No. 28](#) on the equality of rights between men and women, (2000) **;
- UNSC, Resolution on Women and Peace and Security, [S/RES/1325](#), (2000)*;
- UNGA, [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children](#), A/RES/55/25, (2000)*;
- UNGA, [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography](#), A/RES/54/263, (2000)**;

² This is an illustrative non-exhaustive compilation of international norms.

- UNGA, [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts](#), A/RES/54/263, (2000)**;
- UNGA, [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto](#), A/Res/55/25, (2000)**;
- Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), [General Comment No. 1](#) on the aims of education, (2001)**;
- International Law Commission (ILC), [Responsibility of States for internationally Wrongful Acts](#) (2001) †;
- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, [E/2001/35](#) (2001) †;
- UNGA, [Declaration on Cities and Other human Settlements in the New Millennium](#), A/Res/S-25/2, (2001)†;
- Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Brussels (Belgium), 14-20 May 2001
 - [Brussels Declaration](#)†
- CESCR, [General Comment No. 15](#) on the right to water, (2002)**;
- [International Conference on Financing for Development](#), Monterrey (Mexico), 18-22 March 2002:
 - [Conference report](#): Monterrey Consensus†
- [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#), Johannesburg (South Africa), 26 August–4 September 2002:
 - [Johannesburg Declaration](#)†
 - [Plan of Implementation](#)†
- High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council, [Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking](#), E/2002/68/Add.1 (2002)†;
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Key to symbols:

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