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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Follow up to the UNHA Resolutions Action plan and Roadmap to 2025

Resolution on Adequate Housing for All ([HSP/HA.2/Res.7](#))

Version 1 – [27 September 2023]

This Roadmap has been prepared by the UN-Habitat Secretariat to reflect on the resolution on Adequate Housing for All (HSP/HA.2/Res.7), adopted at the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 9 June 2023. The Resolution was championed by Bahrain, Egypt, France, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan and the United States of America and adopted by acclamation. This Action Plan will be adjusted and updated, as needed and relevant, during the course of implementation of the resolution.

Overview of resolution

In preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, UN-Habitat's Executive Director emphasised critical elements for achieving universal access to adequate housing, recognising a recent decline in progress in countries globally. These essential components include a renewed commitment to a human rights-based approach to housing and urbanisation, the establishment of robust government-led strategic frameworks for stakeholder engagement, improved data collection on housing conditions, and the provision of appropriate financing mechanisms for housing delivery models prioritising affordability and sustainability. The Executive Director also highlighted the need for a global multi-lateral forum to ensure stakeholders can appropriate and operationalise the housing framework, measure progress, coordinate policies at various levels, involve diverse stakeholders, and facilitate substantial discussions on pressing housing issues.

As a result, the UN-Habitat Assembly has decided to address these challenges, by:

- **Setting up an open-ended inter-governmental expert working group to consider and make recommendations to the Assembly on the development and content of policies for accelerating progress towards the universal achievement of safe, sustainable, adequate and affordable housing.** Specifically, the working group would be tasked with; assessing the state of efforts to progressively realise adequate housing for all; identify policy best practices; propose a framework for measuring and reporting on the adequacy of housing across nations and local contexts; mapping and evaluate both technical and financial existing multilateral and bilateral support to the development and implementation of effective housing policies.
- **Establishing a publicly accessible adequate sustainable and affordable housing platform** to disseminate most recently available data on the provision of adequate housing – disaggregated by factors such as geography, gender, age, disability and any other relevant risks or causes of exclusion – and relevant policies, case studies, tools and best practices.

The Adequate Housing for All resolution represents a significant advancement in addressing housing adequacy compared to existing mandates and resources. It introduces two crucial elements: i) a regular and dedicated forum for member states to deliberate on housing issues and ii) systematic provision of information on housing situations, trends, and best practices.

Requests for UN-Habitat

The operative elements of the Resolution, request UN-Habitat to:

- **Support the establishment of the open-ended inter-governmental expert working group;**
- **Provide all necessary support to meetings of the Working Group, including the conducting of research and the preparation of information documents and analysis;**
- **Establish and maintain a publicly accessible adequate sustainable and affordable housing platform** to disseminate the most recently available data on housing achievements, case studies, tools, and best practices.

Requests for Member States and other actors

The resolution calls upon and encourages Member States, including local authorities:

- To **prioritise access to adequate housing**, including **addressing homelessness and slum transformation** as a central element of inclusive, resilient post-pandemic recovery and achievements of SDGs and NUA;
- To **expand access to safe, sustainable and adequate and affordable housing through inclusive and cross-sectoral and holistic strategies** that respect the human rights of all, targeting all households and all forms of tenure, with targeted efforts aimed at providing housing solutions for lower-income households and households facing the greatest cost burdens and risk of displacement and the most inadequate housing conditions;
- To **collect and release disaggregated and local data** to inform actions and monitoring the impact of measures.
- To **continue developing inclusive and cross-sectoral strategies that respect and progressively realise the right to adequate housing**, through the outlining of clear responsibilities at all levels of government; measurable goals, targets and timelines; and appropriate mechanisms for regular monitoring and review, with particular emphasis on members of different income groups of society, taking into consideration the socioeconomic and cultural integration of marginalised communities, homeless persons and those in vulnerable situations, and preventing segregation;
- To **support the mobilisation of adequate human and financial resources to effectively implement the resolution.**

Further, international financial institutions are invited to:

- support and complement financing provided by governments for safe, sustainable, adequate and affordable housing and for promoting the construction of climate-neutral housing.

Relationship with prior and existing mandates, resolutions (Governing Council, GA, UNHA, etc)

Adequate housing has been discussed, recognised and promoted as a key approach to accelerate SDG achievement in various decisions, resolutions, high-level reports and outcome documents.

UN-Habitat Governing Council and Governing Bodies

- In April 2011, **Resolution 23/16 entitled “Formulation of a Global Housing Strategy”**, acknowledged that “a well-functioning housing sector is key to attaining sustainable urban development”, and emphasised that “a global housing strategy promoted by UN Habitat will provide general guidance in terms of housing policies to be implemented in accordance with regional and local circumstance within the context of sustainable urban development”.
- In April 2013, **Resolution 24/9 entitled “Inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift”** requested UN-Habitat to “pursue the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies [...], by proposing a paradigm shift, including the integration of housing with other urban uses; encouraging the pro-poor performance of markets; promoting system-wide reforms to enable wider access to adequate housing solutions; strengthening linkages between housing, the economy,

employment and poverty reduction; using sustainable building and neighbourhood designs and contributing to improving the living conditions of slum dwellers”.

- In April 2015, **Resolution 25/4 entitled “Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019”** took note of the “Housing at the centre approach”, which positions housing at the centre of national urban policies and of cities.
- **In line with the Executive Board Decision, UN-Habitat's Executive Director identified strengthening universal access to adequate housing as one of the Agency's priorities for 2022-23.**
- **The Ministerial Declaration** of the second session of the UN Habitat Assembly calls for “exploring mechanisms and platforms for advancing sustainable solutions to progressively achieve the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living without discrimination and to end homelessness” (paragraph 13a).

General Assembly

- **General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015**, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, committing to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services as indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
- Within **General Assembly resolution 76/133 of 16 December 2021** entitled “Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)” national and local governments are urged to improve access to affordable housing through integrated housing policies and social protection measures to address structural drivers of homelessness.
- **The General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (HLM)'s** outcome document confirmed Member States' commitment to support adequate and affordable housing for all as a key driver of implementation of the NUA.

Other High-Level Reports

- Within the New Urban Agenda, signatories committed to “promoting national, subnational and local housing policies that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, that address all forms of discrimination and violence and prevent arbitrary forced evictions and that focus on the needs of the homeless, persons in vulnerable situations, low-income groups and persons with disabilities, while enabling the participation and engagement of communities and relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of these policies, including supporting the social production of habitat, according to national legislation and standards”.
- The **UN Secretary-General's report on “Our Common Agenda”** has identified adequate and affordable housing as one of the pillars constituting a new social contract between Governments and their people and within societies, so as to rebuild trust and embrace a comprehensive vision of human rights.
- The UN Secretary General's report on “Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness” **highlights the UNHA resolution on Adequate Housing for All as an implementation mechanism for its recommendations.** In particular it stresses the need to *(a) Set a global target aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals on ending homelessness, establish a comprehensive global dashboard within the open platform mandated in the UN-Habitat Assembly draft resolution on adequate housing for all, [...]; (b) Utilize the intergovernmental working group on housing, called for in the United Nations Habitat Assembly resolution on adequate housing for all, to advance the recommendations of the present report to end homelessness.*

Implementing the resolution through the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-25

The overall aim and requests of the resolution are directly related to the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025:

- UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan recognizes adequate housing for all as central to shaping inclusive and prosperous towns and cities where no one and no place is left behind. Adequate and sustainable housing is key for the pursuit of three of the four Domains of Change.
- **Domain of Change 1** recognises housing as a cornerstone for poverty and inequality reduction.
- Within **Domain of Change 3**, adequate and sustainable housing is made central through the work on climate change mitigation and sustainable building codes.
- **Domain of Change 4** recognises that access to housing rights for groups in situations of vulnerability (eg. migrants, indigenous peoples, IDPs) is a vector of socio-economic inclusion.
- **Strengthening universal access to adequate housing is one of the three UN-Habitat's priorities for the biennium 2022-2023.**

Fundraising strategy and key opportunities

To secure the necessary financial resources for the effective implementation of the Adequate Housing for All resolution, a multi-faceted fundraising strategy is being devised. First and foremost, direct communication with member states is a key approach. This involves highlighting the resolution's significance and the positive impact that financial contributions can make. Concrete examples of how funds will be utilised to advance housing adequacy will be provided to underscore the tangible benefits of their support. The relevance of supporting the resolution has been discussed during bilateral at the G8, as well as with the French and US governments.

Furthermore, communication aims at highlighting the fact that establishing a predictable funding environment and directing resources towards priority areas would be beneficial to all stakeholders. To ensure member states' confidence, regular reporting on fund usage will be conducted, detailing how allocated resources contribute to the resolution's objectives within the existing reporting mechanism to the Executive Board.

In addition to engaging member states, collaboration with financial institutions and development banks is also being explored. Although they may not contribute to the core funding of the working group, these institutions can be valuable partners in supporting demonstration projects and other relevant initiatives aligned with the goals of the Adequate Housing for All resolution. Discussions are currently underway with the French Development Agency to directly fund part of the platform's costs, under the framework of the newly signed MoU.

The PBI can be found in annex.

Challenges or gaps foreseen in the implementation of the Resolution

A primary challenge lies in securing and maintaining strong political commitment from Member States, as this commitment is fundamental to the resolution's success.

Strategies to address this challenge include:

1. Recognising Member States that demonstrate significant progress in implementing the resolution and achieving universal access to adequate housing can serve as a catalyst for sustained political commitment. By acknowledging and rewarding exemplary efforts, it reinforces the importance of the resolution's objectives and encourages others.
2. Facilitating peer review mechanisms among Member States is crucial. These mechanisms enable countries to learn from one another's experiences, share best practices, and provide constructive feedback.
3. Conducting periodic reviews and evaluations is essential for assessing progress towards the resolution's objectives. These evaluations involve analysing the effectiveness of policies that have been implemented, identifying existing gaps or areas requiring improvement, and making necessary adjustments.
4. Organising High-Level Dialogues involving heads of state, ministers, and key decision-makers provides a vital platform for discussing the significance of adequate housing in the context of broader

sustainable development goals. These dialogues facilitate informed discussions on the benefits of adequate housing and its linkage to other sustainable development goals.

It's important to note that political commitment also has a direct impact on the development of a robust monitoring and evidence framework. Without support and buy-in from Member States, the establishment of effective mechanisms for monitoring progress and gathering evidence can face obstacles.

Roadmap for implementation of the Resolution including timelines (indicate if time-bound or open-ended)

To advance the implementation of the Adequate Housing for All Resolution during the period of 2023-2025, several key steps and milestones have been identified:

Establishment of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group: The recruitment process for the Working Group is a collaborative effort in which countries that have championed the resolution will play an active role as conveyers. The recruitment process also plays a pivotal role in shaping the collaborative efforts to realize the objectives of the Adequate Housing for All Resolution. It begins with formal invitations extended by the United Nations to Member States, inviting their active participation in this critical endeavour. These invitations are planned to be sent to Member States by mid-October 2023, to mobilise technical support from governments known for their expertise and keen interest in the field of housing policy. The invitations will require Member States to designate a representative (at the highest possible rank within their respective governments in the domain of housing policy) to take part in the work of the working group.

In parallel, invitations will be extended to selected regional and local governments, the five United Nations regional commissions, other United Nations entities with expertise in adequate housing, and international financial institutions.

Once the working group is formed, rules and procedures for its operation will be established. This includes decisions on whether to appoint a Chair or Bureau responsible for facilitating the group's sessions, coordinating its activities, and representing the group in relevant forums.

Development of a framework for measuring and reporting on housing adequacy: This process will include engagement with national statistical commissions, academia, civil society organizations, and persons with lived experiences of housing inadequacy and exclusion. An Expert Group Meeting is already planned for November 2023 to commence work on the framework of indicators. The framework will incorporate quantitative and qualitative indicators, outcome and process indicators, and guidelines on data disaggregation. Member states will actively participate in its development and will be encouraged to report periodically. Key milestones include the creation of the framework and its periodic use to generate the State of Global Housing report.

Compilation of thematic standards and guidelines: The working group will conduct an annual cycle of activities focusing on specific topics relevant to housing policy. This includes research, policy brief development, and the translation of findings into standards and guidelines for implementation and adaptation to different contexts. Member states will be encouraged to pilot test recommended policies and guidelines, refining them further based on feedback and effectiveness assessments. Key milestones involve the identification of annual topics and the development of policy recommendations.

Peer learning opportunities: The secretariat will organize peer learning opportunities, such as workshops, webinars, and conferences, centred around the selected annual topic. These events will facilitate knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices, and capacity-building among member states and stakeholders. Key milestones include the organisation and successful conduct of these peer learning activities.

Bi-annual Global State of Housing Report: The working group, in collaboration with the Secretariat, will produce a bi-annual Global State of Housing report. This report will utilise data and best practices collected through the working group and platform to provide insights into global housing trends, challenges, and

opportunities. It will track progress on SDG 11 target 11.1 and offer forecasts and projections to guide member states in adapting their housing policies. Key milestones include the presentation of the first report at the end of year 2 of implementation.

Establishment of the publicly accessible Platform: The creation of a publicly accessible platform will serve as a central hub for housing-related data, policies, and best practices. It will facilitate knowledge exchange, data sharing, and collaboration among stakeholders working towards adequate housing for all. Key milestones include conducting a needs assessment, collecting data, developing data visualization tools, designing and developing the platform, and promoting its awareness and usage.

Focal point and contact

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Annex – Programme Budget Implications Summary (as of after UNHA2)

Relevant Subprogramme(s)	Budget Category	Total Resources	Existing Resources	Net total
Recurrent Resource Requirements (Annual)				
SP1 (100%)	Post Costs	522,767	-	522,767
	Non-Post Costs	215,324	-	215,324
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	70,000	-	70,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	77,800	-	77,800
	<i>Travel</i>	37,500	-	37,500
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	30,024	-	30,024
	Subtotal, Recurring Resource Requirements	738,090	-	738,090
One-Time Resource Requirements				
SP1 (100%)	Post Costs	-	-	-
	Non-Post Costs	195,500	-	195,500
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	80,000	-	80,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	75,000	-	75,000
	<i>Travel</i>	40,500	-	40,500
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	-	-	-
	Subtotal, One-Time Resource Requirements	195,500	-	195,500
Grand Total		933,590	-	933,590