

**25<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL**  
**17 - 23 APRIL 2015 ♦ NAIROBI**

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

*Housing Unit  
Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch  
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya  
Tel: (254-20) 7623141 Fax: (254-20) 7624265  
[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)*

**UN-Habitat Global Housing Strategy:  
Sharing experiences in affordable housing provision at scale**

*25 Session of Governing Council  
Tuesday, 21 April 2015  
Venue: Conference Room 14 Time: 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm  
Nairobi, Kenya*

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**Background**

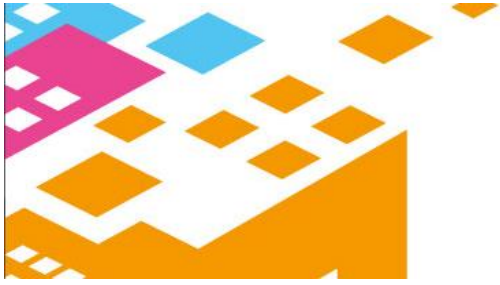
Since 2013, UN-Habitat has been implementing the Global Housing Strategy (GHS)<sup>1</sup>, a collaborative global movement towards adequate housing for all. The GHS is based on the principle of inclusive cities as the foundation for sustainable urban development. Inclusive cities are achieved by mainstreaming human rights in urban development, including housing and slum upgrading, to ensure opportunities for all, social integration and cohesion. The GHS envisions a national housing strategy at the centre of national development and advocates for the integration of housing policies into broader social, economic and environmental policies as well as urban policies. Policies and programmes need to be geared around the strategic need of increasing the supply of affordable housing for all and especially for the most poor and vulnerable groups at the centre of urban development. This is a central requirement of GHS: only with strong political will, sound guidelines and adequate regulations will countries and cities be able to provide adequate alternatives at the scale needed, reduce slum growth and ensure sustainable, inclusive and pro-poor urban development.

Under the framework of the GHS UN-Habitat aims to support member States to formulate and implement national housing policies, strategies and programmes for the promotion of access to adequate, sustainable and inclusive housing. UN-Habitat will work with countries to establish guidelines, policies, planning and programming of investment, management and monitoring activities in the areas of housing, slum upgrading and slum prevention.

This Side Event is a milestone in the implementation of the GHS, which UN-Habitat is currently undertaking at the country level. The event will gather GHS pilot countries to share experiences amongst themselves as well as with other countries which have achieved successful results in providing affordable housing at scale. With this event UN-Habitat wants to strengthen the understanding, political interest and commitment of countries towards developing a long-term vision and a policy framework for housing sector development at the national level.

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<sup>1</sup> Endorsed by Resolution 24/9 at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of UN-Habitat Governing Council.



### **Objective of the Side Event**

The main objective of the Side Event is to increase political interest and commitment of partner countries to addressing their housing challenges and repositioning housing at the centre of national and urban development policies. Specific objectives include:

- a. Increased awareness and commitment to addressing the challenges of housing more holistically linked to economic development, employment generation and poverty reduction policies, and through promoting sustainable and affordable housing alternatives.
- b. Increase political interest and commitment to work with UN-Habitat to pilot the juxtaposition of the principles of the Global Housing Strategy into national housing policies.
- c. Increased awareness and commitment towards repositioning “housing at the centre” of national and city development strategies as well as on the key role of housing in the New Urban Agenda for the 21st century.

The event will also enable Member States to exchange knowledge and share experience towards achieving adequate housing for all within the framework of the GHS. Countries will share experiences on assessing housing needs, developing national housing policies and implementing policies. The Side Event will also provide an opportunity to inform Member States on the implementation and achievements of UN-Habitat with the GHS, including strategic partnerships, knowledge production, capacity building and advocacy.

### **Structure**

The Side Event will include two presentations of countries which have prioritized housing in the core of their development strategies and achieved good results in providing affordable housing at scale, highlighting a) the main “ingredients of success” and b) the importance of a policy framework to improve access to housing for all. The GHS pilot countries will then have the opportunity to share their main needs and priorities and discuss on the ways forward for collaboration with UN-Habitat.

The plenary discussions will give opportunity for contribution from participants - independent experts, academic, and representatives from civil society organizations.



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**Provisional Agenda:**

<b>UN-Habitat Global Housing Strategy: Sharing experiences in affordable housing provision at scale</b>  <i>25 Session of Governing Council Tuesday, 21 April 2015 Venue: Conference Room 14 Time: 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm Nairobi, Kenya</i>		
5 Min	<b>Introduction and welcome message – UN-Habitat</b>	<b>Rafeal Tuts, Coordinator HSUP Branch</b>
5 Min	<b>GHS framework</b> UN-Habitat	<b>Christophe Lalande, Leader Housing Unit</b>
20 Min	Sharing experiences	
	COUNTRY 1	<b>Brazil – (TBC)</b>
	COUNTRY 2	<b>Ethiopia – (TBC)</b>
15 Min	<b>Plenary discussion</b> GHS counties discuss on the experiences shared and on the ways forward for collaboration with UN-Habitat	ALL PARTICIPANTS  Facilitated by Christophe Lalande – Leader, Housing Unit - UN-Habitat
5 Min	<b>Closing remarks and next steps</b>	UN-Habitat facilitation

**Participants:**

The event will be co-organized by UN-Habitat and GHS countries namely Ghana, Mozambique, Nepal, Zambia, Lesotho, Guyana and El Salvador.

Participants will include representatives from member states attending the GC25 as well as independent experts, academic, and representatives from civil society organizations and NGOs.

**Language:**

Presentations will be in English.

**Contacts:**

For all matters pertaining to this Side Event, please contact the Housing Unit, Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch UN-HABITAT project team Christophe Lalande ([Christophe.Lalande@unhabitat.org](mailto:Christophe.Lalande@unhabitat.org)), and Fernanda Lonardoni ([Fernanda.Lornadoni@unhabitat.org](mailto:Fernanda.Lornadoni@unhabitat.org)), Kamba Ankunda ([Kamba.Ankunda@unhabitat.org](mailto:Kamba.Ankunda@unhabitat.org))