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United Nations Habitat Assembly of the  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
Second session  
Nairobi, 5–9 June 2023

## **Resolution adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 9 June 2023**

### **2/7. Adequate housing for all**

*The United Nations Habitat Assembly,*

*Recalling* the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its article 25 recognizing housing as part of the right to an adequate standard of living,

*Recalling also* the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements adopted by the First United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) and its recognition that adequate shelter and services are a basic human right, which places an obligation on Governments to ensure their attainment by all people,

*Recalling further* the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and its commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, calling upon Member States to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 76/133 of 16 December 2021 on inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in which the Assembly encouraged national and local governments to improve access to affordable housing through integrated housing policies and social protection measures,

*Recalling* Governing Council resolutions 23/16 of 15 April 2011 on the formulation of a global housing strategy, 24/9 of 19 April 2013 on inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the global housing strategy paradigm shift, and 25/4 of 23 April 2015 on the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for 2014–2019, which takes note of the “housing at the centre” approach that positions housing at the centre of national urban policies and of cities,

*Recalling* the New Urban Agenda and its commitment 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 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, according to national legislation and standards,

*Reaffirming* the recognition in the New Urban Agenda of the importance of applying the principle of subsidiarity, as appropriate, in housing policy in order to ensure coherence among national, subnational and local development strategies, land policies and housing supply,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 49/17 of 31 March 2022 on the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, including its recognition that security of tenure enhances the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing and is significant for the enjoyment of many other economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, and its call to Member States to give due consideration to integrating the human right to adequate housing into the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular view to the right to non-discrimination in this context,

*Recognizing* that each State Party<sup>1</sup> undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the extent enabled by its available resources, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing,

*Concerned* that the right to adequate housing, as derived from the right to an adequate standard of living, is not realized for many throughout the world, and that an estimated more than 1.6 billion people are currently living in substandard housing, or experiencing homelessness, or at immediate risk of homelessness,<sup>2</sup> inadequate housing conditions, unaffordable housing, overcrowding, or settlements in risk-prone areas, and concerned by the finding in the United Nations publication *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022* that Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.1.1 – reduce the proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing – is one of nine indicators whose implementation has regressed globally,

*Acknowledging* the work of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to non-discrimination in this context,

*Concerned* that in most countries the disparity between housing costs and income levels has grown while access to finance is constrained,

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental 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, and, specifically, requests the expert working group, subject to the availability of resources, to:

- (a) Assess the state of efforts to progressively realize adequate housing for all;
- (b) Identify policy best practices for the progressive realization of adequate housing and, as appropriate, examples of such best practices and the contexts in which they were developed;
- (c) Propose a framework for measuring and reporting on the adequacy of housing across diverse national and local contexts;
- (d) Consider the progress made in implementing the UN-Habitat programme of work related to adequate housing;
- (e) Map and evaluate existing multilateral and bilateral support for the development and implementation of effective housing policies, programmes and projects;
- (f) Report on its recommendations to the Assembly at its third session;

2. *Decides* that the Chair of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group will regularly report to the Executive Board of UN-Habitat on the working group's activities and programme of work, which are to be determined in consultation with the Executive Board;

3. *Decides* to review, at its third session, the recommendations of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group and to consider its report as a potential basis for guidelines for accelerating progress towards the universal achievement of safe, sustainable, adequate and affordable housing;

4. *Decides* that the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group may adopt terms of reference with respect to its work and functions, particularly for matters not addressed by the rules

<sup>1</sup> To the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 76/133.

of procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, which, in accordance with rule 64, shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, where the terms of reference are silent;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to provide all necessary support to all meetings of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group, including the conduct of research and the preparation of information documents and analysis as may be requested by the working group or the Executive Board;

6. *Invites* the five United Nations regional commissions, other United Nations entities with expertise and experience in the area of adequate housing, and international financial institutions to contribute to the activities of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group;

7. *Decides* that the Executive Board will decide on the timing and duration of the sessions of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group and that, in any case, the working group will not hold more than one regular session per year;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to assess available platforms and resources that provide data and tools to national and local authorities or governments and other key stakeholders related to achieving access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing; to create a publicly accessible, complementary platform that includes summaries of the 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 summarizes relevant policies, case studies, tools and best practices that could be provided and used by Member States, members of United Nations specialized agencies, local and regional authorities or governments, housing providers, academia and other stakeholders; and to provide any other information that the Executive Director may deem relevant to the universal achievement of adequate housing for all;

9. *Urges* Member States to prioritize access to adequate housing, including addressing homelessness and slum transformation, as a central element of inclusive, resilient post-pandemic recovery and achievement of the New Urban Agenda and of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda;

10. *Calls on* Member States and local and regional authorities to expand access to safe, sustainable, adequate and affordable housing through inclusive, integrated and holistic strategies and programmes, with respect for 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 those households facing the greatest cost burdens and risk of displacement and the most inadequate housing conditions;

11. *Calls on* Member States and, in accordance with national legislation, local and regional authorities or governments to collect and release disaggregated and local data on adequate housing in order to inform action and monitor the impact of measures;

12. *Encourages* Member States and local and regional authorities or governments to continue developing inclusive and cross-sectoral strategies that respect and progressively realize the right to adequate housing, as derived from the right to an adequate standard of living for all, and to ensure that these strategies outline clear responsibilities at all levels of government; contain measurable goals, targets and timelines; and include 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 marginalized communities, homeless persons and those in vulnerable situations, and preventing segregation;

13. *Invites* international financial institutions to support financing provided by national, regional and local authorities or governments for safe, sustainable, adequate and affordable housing and for promoting the construction of climate-neutral housing;

14. *Invites* Member States and other stakeholders to provide adequate resources for the effective implementation of the present resolution.