



**Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group
on Adequate Housing for All
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**Establishment of a publicly accessible complementary
platform that includes summaries of the most recently
available data on the provision of adequate housing**

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Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. At its second session, in June 2023, the United Nations Habitat Assembly adopted resolution 2/7 on adequate housing for all. By that resolution, the Assembly requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to assess available platforms and resources that provided 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. Further, it requested UN-Habitat to create a publicly accessible, complementary platform to disseminate 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 – as well as summarize relevant policies, case studies, tools and best practices. The platform was to serve Member States, members of United Nations specialized agencies, local and regional authorities and governments, housing providers, academia and other stakeholders contributing to the achievement of adequate, safe and sustainable housing for all.

II. Aim and objectives

2. The publicly accessible platform will serve as a valuable resource hub, facilitating coalition-building, knowledge exchange, data-sharing and collaboration among stakeholders working towards the goal of adequate housing for all. The creation of the platform is an essential step in advancing the objectives of resolution 2/7, as it enhances the availability and dissemination of critical information, as well as facilitates exchange between and convergence among housing stakeholders regionally and globally.

3. As a comprehensive and user-friendly resource to advance the universal realization of the right to adequate housing, the platform will be designed to:

* HSP/OEWG-H.2024/1.

- (a) Ensure access to recent, relevant and disaggregated data for all stakeholders on the provision of adequate housing in a way that is easily accessible and understandable;
- (b) Map key players and initiatives in different countries and regions;
- (c) Offer tools, guidelines and resources to enhance the capacity of various stakeholders to plan, design, implement and manage housing initiatives effectively;
- (d) Assist decision makers in making informed choices by presenting evidence-based data, policies and case studies that support the formulation of housing strategies that align with Sustainable Development Goals;
- (e) Encourage collaboration among stakeholders by providing a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and insights related to housing. This may involve forums, discussion boards or networking opportunities;
- (f) Support transparency and better accountability in the housing sector.

III. Assessment of existing platforms and major gaps

4. Several platforms have been identified that offer a range of resources, from raw data and indicators to policy guidelines and case studies, supporting efforts to improve housing conditions globally and regionally. These 19 global platforms and 14 regional platforms (3 focusing on Asia-Pacific, 3 on Africa, 4 on Latin America and the Caribbean, and 4 on Europe and North America) include database and resource hubs, programmes and multi-stakeholder alliances and networks.

5. While the platforms reviewed offer extensive resources and data on various aspects of housing, homelessness, slum upgrading and housing finance, there are several areas in which the housing for all platform would enhance the overall landscape, as explained below.

A. Integrated data and impact measurement tools

6. While many platforms offer data, there is a lack of integrated tools that combine data on housing, homelessness, evictions, slum conditions and finance to measure the impact of policies and interventions holistically. A unified platform that allows stakeholders to cross-reference data from multiple sectors and regions while also allowing visualization of how changes in one area (such as housing finance) have an impact on others (such as homelessness rates) would be valuable.

B. Limited availability of disaggregated data

7. Many existing platforms provide general or aggregated data. Even when disaggregated data exist, they are not always integrated into policy tools and decision-making frameworks. This limits the ability of governments and stakeholders to use such data effectively. The housing for all platform could prioritize the collection and dissemination of data disaggregated by key demographics and integrate them into impact assessment and analysis to ensure that all population segments are considered.

C. Integration of community-led data initiatives

8. Some examples of community-led data collection were recorded. There is an unaddressed need for more mainstreamed community-driven data initiatives, in particular in informal settlements and slums, to ensure that data are accurate and reflect the lived realities of residents. The platform could facilitate the expansion and integration of community-led data collection and monitoring.

D. Housing quality and sustainability indicators

9. While housing affordability is well covered, less attention is given to the quality and sustainability of housing. Many platforms lack detailed data and tools related to building standards, energy efficiency, climate resilience and the long-term sustainability of housing. The housing for all platform could integrate and highlight the work of partners that are providing data and tools focused on the quality of housing, incorporating sustainability metrics such as energy use, carbon footprint and resilience to natural disasters.

E. Integration of innovations

10. Few platforms currently integrate emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data analytics to enhance housing solutions. These technologies could be used for more efficient and predictive analysis.

F. Monitoring and reporting on progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 11

11. Even though Sustainable Development Goal 11 is a global priority, current platforms often lack access to updated, comparable and hard-to-reach data, leaving critical aspects of urban development and housing unaddressed.

G. Mapping of key players and initiatives

12. None of the existing platforms provides clear, accessible information about the key actors and initiatives involved in housing, land governance and urban development across different regions and countries. This makes it challenging for stakeholders to identify relevant partners, understand ongoing efforts and align their actions with broader goals. By consolidating and organizing this information, the platform can act as a hub for connecting stakeholders, promoting accountability and generating concrete calls for action.

IV. Assessment of partners' needs

13. To gather insights to guide the development of the platform, UN-Habitat initiated a needs assessment exercise to identify the specific requirements and preferences of and challenges faced by stakeholders involved in the field of adequate housing. By understanding the needs and expectations of the target users, this process will ensure that the platform not only addresses existing gaps but also facilitates collaboration, knowledge exchange and informed decision-making for adequate housing for all.

14. An initial questionnaire was shared with non-governmental partners, to establish the scope of discussions. A second questionnaire has been circulated to Member States. Preliminary results from that questionnaire were not yet available at the time of preparation of the present report.

15. The platform's perceived value lies in providing access to updated, comparable and hard-to-reach data (including on aspects that are not currently captured by Sustainable Development Goal 11), as well as in aggregating key trends and facilitating quality analysis.

16. The need to strengthen connections and better capture topics like homelessness and impact was also mentioned. Finally, several partners called for a clear mapping of the key players and initiatives in different countries and regions, as well as for the promotion of accountability and the generation of concrete calls for action.

17. An overall call was made for the platform to enable the alignment of housing actions (with regard to policy, finance, industry and community) on key pathways and goals towards housing rights across different contexts and geographies.

18. The discussion was summarized by three contributions addressing how partners would measure the success or impact of the platform:

(a) "The platform enhances access to detailed information on good practices and evaluation of programmes in a way that helps assess which policies are most impactful in providing access to housing for all, with rigorous analysis and data that can be used by partners to advocate for the implementation of certain practices";

(b) "More consistent data reporting and usage by all stakeholders, more transparency and better accountability of the reduction in qualitative and quantitative housing deficits";

(c) "Effective changes in global policy so that housing is acknowledged as a vehicle for welfare and economic development and more dedicated funding is made available (including through official development assistance contributions) for housing and informal settlements".

V. Conclusions and proposed next steps

19. The following key features have been identified on the basis of the desk research and the preliminary needs assessment:

(a) *Data visualization:* The platform will incorporate a diverse range of data related to the provision of adequate housing, ensuring that both quantitative and qualitative aspects are covered. Data will be collected and presented on the basis of the framework elaborated by the Working Group. Interactive data visualization tools will allow users to explore and understand housing data through charts, graphs and maps, promoting data-driven decision-making. The platform will prioritize the disaggregation of data to provide insights into housing disparities on the basis of geography, gender, age, disability and other factors that contribute to exclusion. This disaggregated approach is crucial for developing targeted and equitable housing policies. Users will have the option to filter and view housing data by various factors, thereby facilitating these tailored analyses.

(b) *Policy summaries:* In addition to data, the platform will provide concise summaries of housing-related policies and initiatives implemented by national and local governments. Information to assess and evaluate the impact of the interventions in providing access to housing for all will also be included to support dissemination, replication and advocacy. These summaries will facilitate the exchange of best practices and policy learning.

(c) *Repository of case studies:* Case studies showcasing successful housing interventions, innovative solutions and community-driven initiatives will be featured. These case studies will serve as practical examples for stakeholders seeking effective housing strategies. Here, too, attention will be given to evaluation of programmes in a way that supports the assessment of impact to ensure advocacy and policy learning.

(d) *Monitoring and evaluation tools:* The platform will strive to provide a framework and tools to monitor and evaluate the impact of housing interventions, policies and programmes, as well as assess the effectiveness of different approaches in realizing housing rights and improving living conditions.

(e) *Resource hub:* The platform will also host a collection of tools, guidelines, training materials and methodologies that can be used by national and local governments, housing providers and civil society organizations to enhance housing conditions and outcomes.

(f) *Collaboration:* The platform will host a private forum behind an authentication wall, accessible to registered members. This forum will offer a blog space, a chat room and a document repository with various access levels (for example, read-only, edit, download and delete). Conversations will be moderated by introducing discussion topics, managing discussion protocols, teasing out learnings, guiding discussions constructively, and conducting polls and surveys. Depending on available resources, this collaboration space will also be complemented by offline and online workshops and meetings.

(g) *User-friendly interface:* An intuitive and user-friendly interface will ensure easy navigation and accessibility for a diverse audience, including persons with disabilities. An advanced search and filter function will be implemented (powered by artificial intelligence, for instance) to enable the exploration of reports, guidelines, policies, case studies and other documents, with the ability to filter by theme, region and source.

(h) *Global coverage:* The platform will strive to include data and resources from Member States and organizations across regions, ensuring a comprehensive global perspective on housing challenges and solutions.

(i) *Regular updates:* The platform will be regularly updated to ensure that the latest housing data, policies and best practices are readily accessible to users.

20. To realize the full potential of the proposed platform, it is essential to secure resources that allow for the successful development, deployment and maintenance of the platform. In addition, consistent funding would need to cover the resources necessary for ongoing staff coordination, website maintenance and support for thematic workshops.

21. The proposed platform offers significant scalability potential, allowing it to evolve in line with growth in the support and the needs of stakeholders, while ensuring financial efficiency. An initial investment, partially secured, will create the foundation for long-term impact through the development of a dynamic resource hub and collaborative online forum.

22. Initially, essential features will be developed, such as the authentication system, blog space, chat room and document repository, while leveraging the annual budget for staff coordination and website maintenance to gradually introduce additional components like offline and online workshops, as resources allow. Thematic workshops will also be scaled on the basis of community demand and available funding.

23. Robust website maintenance, including editing, translation and data visualization, requires additional resources that will ensure that the platform remains responsive to evolving content needs. The travel budget for thematic consultations can be adjusted as the platform matures, potentially substituting in-person meetings with online workshops. This approach will optimize budget utilization and enhance the platform's value.
