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Review of Existing Elements and Options for the Development of a Framework for Measuring and Reporting on the Adequacy of Housing Across Diverse National and Local Contexts

Presented by: Regina Orvañanos

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Introduction & Previous International Efforts in Monitoring Housing Adequacy

Introduction

- During the establishment of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group, the United Nations Habitat Assembly requested the Executive Director to support authorities, governments, and stakeholders in the monitoring of adequate housing.

Previous International Efforts in Monitoring Housing Adequacy

- International efforts to measure adequate housing have progressed significantly since initial efforts in 1988. With partnerships spanning multiple agencies over several decades, UN-Habitat has supported the introduction of an international slum definition, core housing indicators, and urban indicator databases.

Existing Monitoring Frameworks

- Key global frameworks for housing monitoring include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda, which emphasize adequate, safe, and affordable housing, slum reduction, and housing rights. The Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF), integrates spatial, non-spatial, and qualitative indicators to monitor sustainable urbanization, harmonizing the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

Remaining Gaps

- Despite advancements, there remains the need to establish a minimum core set of housing indicators for global monitoring, complemented by context-specific indicators relevant to certain countries, regions, or local governments



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Framework Overview

Framework Overview

4 Elements of the Housing Monitoring Framework

- **Assessment** of housing adequacy: Measure housing adequacy across seven core components, adding sustainability, with a flexible framework that prioritizes basic needs and adapts to evolving national contexts.
- **Context** in which adequate housing operates: Provide contextual indicators like demographics, urbanization, and inequality to ground housing adequacy assessments in each country's socioeconomic realities.
- **Drivers** of housing adequacy: Examine factors like economics, urban planning, and governance to uncover root causes of inadequate housing, guiding strategic, evidence-based policy development.
- **Housing policy** components: Offer a qualitative assessment of housing policies, enabling global comparisons, benchmarking, and adoption of best practices by linking policy components to measurable housing outcomes.

Framework Element 1: Assessment of Housing Adequacy – Components

Assessment of Housing Adequacy – Components

- **Security of Tenure:** Including legal and perceived security of tenure, and forced evictions.
- **Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure:** Including population with access to basic services, and populations living in slums.
- **Affordability:** Including housing cost, income ratios, expenditure ratios, and overburden rates.
- **Habitability:** Including overcrowding, durability and location, and indoor habitability.
- **Accessibility:** Including homelessness, statutory discrimination, exclusion, and spatial segregation.
- **Location:** Including quality of the living environment, proximity to services, and access to transportation.
- **Cultural adequacy:** Including satisfaction and community belonging, and legal recognition of cultural housing and land practices.
- **Sustainability:** Including climate-induced evictions and vulnerabilities, and planetary boundaries of the housing sector.

Framework Element 2: Context in which Adequate Housing Operates – Components

Context in which adequate housing operates – Components

- **Demographic data:** Understanding demographic dynamics, including urban growth, stagnation, or depopulation, is crucial for anticipating housing needs influenced by urbanization and household trends.
- **Urbanization and urban expansion rates:** Rapid urban growth impacts housing demand, infrastructure, and governance capacity, often outpacing efforts to meet needs. Understanding growth patterns across urban centers aids in aligning national housing and urban policies.
- **Country socio-economic information:** Socioeconomic data on income, development, poverty, and inequality are vital for assessing housing adequacy and guiding targeted interventions.
- **Government financial capacity:** Government financial capacity and institutional strength shape housing outcomes by influencing revenue generation, resource allocation, and investment in housing and infrastructure.

Framework Element 3: Drivers of Housing Adequacy – Components

Drivers of Housing Adequacy – Components

- **Macroeconomic conditions and access to finance:** A nation's economy shapes housing demand, affordability, and access to finance. Monitoring housing costs, disposable income, and mortgage debt relative to GDP provides critical insights into affordability trends and housing financialization.
- **Urban planning:** Urban planning regulates land use, density, and housing location, promoting sustainable, accessible growth. Weak planning leads to sprawl and poorly serviced peripheries, exacerbating inequalities.
- **Land governance:** Limited serviced land and high costs exclude low-income groups.
- **Land administration and land-based taxation:** Efficient administration and taxation promote inclusive development and generate revenues.
- **Availability of affordable housing stock:** Monitoring stock, vacancy rates, new builds, and affordability can guide both policy and market responses.
- **Social protection measures:** Social protection policies like subsidies and social housing improve housing adequacy for vulnerable groups.
- **Impact of conflicts:** Conflict drives housing challenges through displacement and destruction, with secure housing crucial for re-stabilization.

Framework Element 4: Housing Policy – Components & Possible Qualitative Assessment

Housing Policy – Components & Possible Qualitative Assessment

- A housing policy assessment provides a qualitative evaluation of national policies, allowing countries to benchmark against others, identify best practices, and refine strategies to address housing adequacy gaps..
- **Existence and status of housing policy**
- **Policy adoption and formation**
- **Policy content and targets**
- **Legal and regulatory frameworks**
- **Housing needs and demand**
- **Policy implementation strategies**
- **Financial investment and support mechanisms**



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Conclusion and way forward

Conclusion and Way Forward

Conclusion

- To address the significant gaps in current monitoring systems, a comprehensive yet flexible framework for measuring and reporting on housing adequacy is urgently needed.
- The full development of an operational monitoring and reporting structure will require coordinated collaboration among Member States, international organizations and stakeholders

Way Forward

- Further definition of a framework's structure and monitoring priorities, agreement on prioritisation of issues, identification of necessary methods and enhancement of data collection efforts are required
- Once developed, pilot testing of a framework accompanied by capacity building initiatives and a regular review process would be essential to refine the framework and ensure its appropriateness to different contexts.

Thank you!

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