



Innovation for better lives

THE FIRST GLOBAL STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

Harnessing Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Foster Innovative Urban Solutions

Declaration of the First Global Stakeholder Forum of the First UN Habitat Assembly 'Toward a New Stakeholder Contract for the New Urban Agenda'

Our Preamble

We, the participants at the first Global Stakeholders Forum held during 25 and 26 May 2019 on the eve of the first UN Habitat Assembly at Nairobi, recalling the historic and indispensable role of partners in sustainable human settlement development since 1976, hereby commit ourselves to innovative and more effective cooperation in delivering sustainable urbanization and development.

We draw on the voices of more than 200 diverse Forum participants, including women, indigenous peoples, youth, older persons, people with disabilities, grassroots organizations, civil society, national and subnational governments, trade unions and workers, professionals, researchers, academia, foundations, business, media, slum dwellers and faith-based communities, from different regions working on sustainable development areas and capabilities.

We enthusiastically applaud the Member States and UN-Habitat for their recognition of the need for strong stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the *New Urban Agenda* toward achieving the SDGs, *Paris Agreement*, the *Sendai Framework* and other international global policies for sustainable urban development and environmental protection, and regional agreements such as African Agenda 2063 and Asian Vision 2035.

We commit to eradicating all forms of inequality and barriers to equitable governance and development in human settlements, as practiced especially against women, female-headed households, youth, children and other marginalized groups such as the poor, stigmatized ethnic groups, older persons and people with disabilities.

We will work toward inclusive, prosperous, vibrant and sustainable human settlements, by improving the quality of lives, safety, livelihoods, affordability, and accessibility of all by realizing rights to land, property and other economic assets, secure tenure, adequate housing, transport, mobility, education, health, essential infrastructure and basic services, especially in conflict- and disaster-affected regions. We commit to working with women's and grassroots women's organizations as strategic actors and partners in these efforts.

Our Approach

We as an integral part of the State, recognize the individual, collective, domestic and extra-territorial obligations of States to respect, protect and fulfill all human rights, in particular, the full and progressive realization of the human right to adequate housing and habitat-related human rights.

We will work constructively and collaboratively with Member States, UN-Habitat and other global, regional, specialized agencies and subnational governments to establish, operationalize and sustain stakeholder engagement to channel our diverse and many voices to the UN-Habitat Assembly and other UN-Habitat bodies.

Our Agreements

We are guided by our universally held values of equity, openness, equal partnerships, subsidiarity, gender equality, human rights, accountability, and transparency, which should be reflected in the Stakeholder Engagement Policy being developed by UN Habitat and Member States.

We agree to engage in collaborative action among ourselves and partners, including with Member States with obligations and commitments to implement the *New Urban Agenda*, achieve the SDGs, and fulfill other global agreements related to habitat.

We endorse the co-creation of policies, programmes, frameworks, monitoring-and-evaluation efforts related to the global agreements.

Our Commitments

We will be pro-active in seeking and imparting information, and employing technology, innovative finance, and other opportunities to use established and new channels of participation.

We will enhance capacities and synergies between and among all stakeholder groups by sharing our deliberations equitably, transparently and effectively.

We will contribute evidence-informed and practical guidance for policy and implementation.

Our Expectations

We envision the realization of cities for all, referring to the equal use of cities and human settlements seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants of present and future generations without discrimination of any kind.

We envisage cities and human settlements that are habitable, safe, healthy accessible, affordable, resilient that foster prosperity and quality of life for all. We note the efforts of some national and local governments to enshrine this vision, referred to as “the right to the city” in their legislation, political declarations, and charters.

We seek adequate support from Member States and other parties for meaningful stakeholder partnership within the UN Habitat governance and operational structures.

Our Steps Forward

We are organizing to reformulate stakeholder roles and responsibilities underpinned by innovative approaches, inclusive practices, and reciprocity among all parties to resolve critical urban and rural human settlement planning, development and governance challenges.

We will build on successful, inclusive and diverse platforms, networks and movements at global, regional, national, and especially at the local level.

We will engage effectively in the programs, policies and outcomes of the UN Habitat Assembly and its bodies aligned with the UN Habitat Strategic Plan 2020–2025.

We welcome the new Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) to advise the UN Habitat Executive Director on strengthening partnerships for sustainable urban development.

We will strengthen and further develop the Stakeholder Forum to implement the principles and commitments of this declaration leading up to WUF 2020.