



TACKLING THE GLOBAL HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CHALLENGE

Housing Affordability has become an issue of concern at the global level. Globally, an increasing number of households cannot afford housing at all or are financially stressed by housing costs. Despite the notable improvements in the reach and depth of the housing finance sector development in several developing countries, the reality remains one where adequate housing is unaffordable and affordable housing is inadequate. In cities in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is well-known that low-income includes a great majority of the population (anywhere between 70 and 90%) and households at the median cannot afford even the cheapest formal sector so-called 'affordable' dwelling. Households continue addressing their housing needs by themselves, informally and incrementally – to some extent leading to the proliferation of slums and informal settlements.

In spite of the many challenges, the potential opportunity of tackling the housing affordability challenge is significant and deserves increasing attention, both for the impact it will have on the wellbeing of its residents and also on the economy. Every day, as people move to urban centres in search of opportunity, the demand for housing grows. Addressing the demand for affordable housing is a prerogative for building cities that are economically viable, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

The main objective of the Side Event include:

- a) To explore major challenges as well as trends in policy responses and practices that can increase affordable housing supply for all and especially for the most poor and vulnerable groups;
- b) To increase awareness and commitment to addressing the global housing affordability challenge harnessing on opportunities for concomitantly promoting economic and social development sustainability and inclusion;

Concurrently, the Side Event will also contribute to continued repositioning of the housing affordability challenge as a priority focus area within UN- Habitat's work and support the Habitat III Conference preparatory process.

Hosted by UN-Habitat in collaboration with McKinsey Global Institute, Slum Dwellers International and Habitat for Humanity International.





Provisional Program

“Tackling the Global Housing Affordability Challenge” Monday 20th April 2015 Conference Room 11- 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.		
10 Min	Introduction and Welcome Message – UN-HABITAT Repositioning ‘Housing at Centre’ of the New Urban Agenda for the 21 st Century	Raf Tuts, UN-Habitat Coordinator HSUP Branch
10 Min	Dr. Jan Mischke McKinsey Global Institute	McKinsey Global Institute
10 Min	Jane Weru Slum Dwellers International	Slum Dwellers International
10 Min	Jane Katz Director of International Affairs & Programs	Habitat for Humanity International
20 Min	Plenary discussion and Closing Remarks	Moderation UN-Habitat

Contacts

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