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## International Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Housing

### Event Outline

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#### **Event details:**

International Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Housing, hosted by UN-HABITAT  
Nairobi, 15-16 December 2011  
Venue: United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), Conference Room 10

#### **Objectives and focus of the event:**

The Expert Group Meeting aims to bring together world leading experts and institutions working in the field of green buildings, housing design and housing sustainability with a specific focus on indigenous building materials and traditional building practices in the context of slum upgrading, affordable housing, and post-crisis housing. The EGM has five principal objectives:

#### **1) Introduce and refine the *i-HOUSE: Housing Sustainability* initiative**

The event will introduce UN-HABITAT's new initiative, *i-HOUSE: Housing Sustainability*, which focuses on the sustainability of affordable housing in developing countries. *i-HOUSE* responds to the pressing need to develop knowledge, raise awareness, and improve the ability of housing sector stakeholders to develop new, and scale-up existing, sustainable housing practices. *i-HOUSE* has four principal objectives:

- Strengthen the capacity of urban slum dwellers, identified vulnerable groups, private sector, policymakers, and housing developers to promote and use alternative, energy-efficient and low greenhouse gas emitting energy sources, construction technologies, and housing designs;
- Support the development of field projects, policies and regulations;
- Raise awareness and improve the understanding of the impact of the domestic uses of energies, building materials and construction technologies on climate change;
- Inform policy processes and advocate for mainstreaming sustainability in affordable housing programmes and projects in developing countries and post-crisis context.

*i-HOUSE* recognises that 'sustainability' in developing countries must be approached more broadly than a exclusive focus on environmental dimensions, such as energy efficiency. It is, therefore, underpinned by a view of sustainability that has four pillars: environmental, economic, social and cultural, where environmental aspects are to be balanced by these other dimensions. The internal *i-HOUSE* Strategy Paper will be circulated prior to the EGM.

#### **2) Lay the foundations for a Global Network for Sustainable Housing (GNSH)**

The EGM will set the basis for constituting a Global Network for Sustainable Housing (GNSH) that will include leading institutions involved in sustainable housing practices and green housing projects worldwide. It is envisaged that the GNSH will play a major role, and lead to global change particularly in the context of slum upgrading, affordable housing, and post-crisis housing. It is anticipated that the structure, scope and objectives of the GNSH will be elaborated at the EGM, and that the institutions represented will consider being founding members of the Network. The GNSH concept note will be circulated prior to the EGM.

#### **3) Introduce and refine *i-BUILD*: an online knowledge resource centre**

The EGM will contribute to formulate and endorse an on-line knowledge platform, *i-BUILD*, which will serve to build a global community of practice for housing sustainability and knowledge sharing, hosted on the UN-HABITAT Urban Gateway. The *i-BUILD* concept note will be circulated prior to the EGM.

#### **4) Reflect on and refine a draft 'Quick Policy Guide on Sustainable Housing'**

UN-HABITAT has commissioned the production of a 'Quick Policy Guide on Sustainable Housing' and a draft will be presented at the EGM. A dedicated session will provide time to reflect of the draft content and structure, refine the scope and focus, and provide additional inputs, such as additional case studies, references and field experiences.

#### **5) Networking and sharing experiences**

The EGM will strengthen partnerships of key institutions working in this field. The programme is structured to allow time for participants to present their institutions' experiences and expertise in the field of sustainable housing. Presentations will be grouped thematically and each participant is requested to give a 15 minute presentation. The draft EGM programme will be circulated prior to the EGM.

#### **Supporting documentation:**

The following documentation will be provided to participants, and participants are kindly requested to review the documentation prior the EGM:

- a) Internal UN-HABITAT i-HOUSE Strategy Paper
- b) Concept Note on the proposed Global Network for Sustainable Housing (GNSH)
- c) Concept Note on i-BUILD, the online knowledge resource centre
- d) Draft EGM Programme

#### **Participant information template and travel information.**

Participants are requested to complete a brief template (questionnaire) that covers institutional information, professional experiences and expertise, as well as travel logistics for the EGM. Participants will also be sent a Logistics and Travel 'Information Pack' which contains information on Kenya, Nairobi, hotels and accommodation options, etc.

#### **Contacts:**

For all matters pertaining to the Expert Group Meeting, the resource persons at UN-HABITAT for Green Buildings and Housing Sustainability issues are Christophe Lalande ([Christophe.Lalande@unhabitat.org](mailto:Christophe.Lalande@unhabitat.org)) and Matthew French ([Matthew.French@unhabitat.org](mailto:Matthew.French@unhabitat.org)).