



## KIGALI DECLARATION

We, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Mayors and urban experts from 56 African, Caribbean and Pacific States<sup>1</sup>, as participants at the Second International Tripartite Conference organised by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), the European Commission (EC) and the United Nations Programme on Human Settlements (UN-Habitat) on ‘Sustainable Urbanisation and Urban Poverty Eradication’ within the framework of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of September, 2013.

*Expressing* our gratitude to the European Commission, the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States and UN-Habitat for the organisation of the conference, for the support from the ACP/EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and to the Government of the Republic of Rwanda for hosting this important forum;

*Recognising* that today, the Millennium Development Goal 7 Target D “to improve significantly, by 2020, the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers” has already been globally achieved and more than doubled;

*Emphasising*, however, that despite all concerted efforts, the absolute number of slum dwellers is continuing to increase in most ACP countries;

*Building on* the 2009 Nairobi Declaration on ‘Urbanisation Challenges and Poverty Reduction in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States’ in which participants committed to developing and implementing appropriate urban planning policies to promote sustainable urbanisation;

*Recalling* the Rio+20 document ‘The Future We Want’ whereby UN Member States committed “to promote sustainable development policies that support inclusive housing and social services, a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women and the elderly and disabled, as well as improved urban planning and slum upgrading”;

*Recalling* also the 2012 Rabat Declaration endorsed by 25 ACP countries and the UN-Habitat Resolution 24/8 through which participants committed themselves to support, through the inter-governmental bodies of the United Nations, the definition of global and national targets of halving the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030;

*Taking into account* the achievements of the ACP/EC/UN-Habitat tripartite partnership with the expansion of the ‘Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme’ (PSUP) into 34 countries and 150 cities that have resulted in policy change, national resource allocation, institutional and human capacity

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<sup>1</sup> Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Puntland, Rwanda, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

development, and over 200 actions that have contributed to improving the living conditions of slum dwellers;

*Realising*, however, that much more needs to be done.

*Commit ourselves to:*

1. Increase our political will to elaborate and to implement integrated strategies for sustainable urban development;
2. Take advantage of the transformative potential of well-planned and managed urbanisation as a driver for sustainable development;
3. Place economic development at the centre of the urbanisation process to create jobs which particularly target the urban youth;
4. Develop National Urban Policies and implementation strategies in close collaboration with local authorities and urban actors for effective urban planning for slum upgrading and city extension;
5. Institutionalise partnerships and empower key urban actors including local authorities, civil society and slum dweller organisations, property developers, research centres, the private sector and infrastructure and service providers to contribute to the eradication of urban poverty;
6. Enable local governments to be effective agents of development through decentralisation and improved local governance including fiscal management;
7. Ensure effective participation in human settlement planning and slum upgrading while mainstreaming human rights approaches into decision-making and programme design;
8. Mobilise funds and leverage local resources to support participatory slum upgrading and prevention initiatives in line with the Habitat Agenda and other agreed international goals considering alternative housing options including especially rental housing provided by various actors including private sector;
9. Promote gender equality to address gender-based differences in the unequal participation in urban governance as well as in the access to secure tenure, adequate housing, basic services and safe urban spaces;
10. Strengthen the exchange of best practices through South-South cooperation within the PSUP framework through for example establishing a forum of housing and urban development professionals benefiting from the comprehensive assessment of lessons learnt and the institutional roles and capacities of the ACP Secretariat, the EC and UN-Habitat;
11. Engage through National Habitat Committees and National Urban Forums in the preparatory process towards Habitat III;

*And further:*

12. Recommend holding the Third Tripartite Conference of the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, the European Commission (EC) and UN-Habitat within the timeframe of the PSUP Programme to report on results achieved by participating countries;
13. Recommend that the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme should continue to be expanded to all interested ACP States and also be extended to a fourth phase;

14. Request continuation and increased support to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to enable the implementation of its global mandate and increase cooperation with the European Commission and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States;
15. Urge that urbanisation and urban poverty eradication be mainstreamed into the Sustainable Development Goals and within the Post-2015 Agenda by incorporating revised targets on slums in order to continue pursuing uncompleted MDGs.

Kigali 06 September 2013