

## **Global Housing Strategy** **Implementation of GC Resolution 23/16**

**Side event at the UN-Habitat Governing Council**  
**April 2013**

### **Background:**

UN-Habitat Global Housing Strategy (GHS) is a collaborative global movement towards adequate housing for all and improving housing and living conditions of slum dwellers. Its main objective is to assist member states in working towards the realization of the right to adequate housing. The GHS was initiated by the GC Resolution 23/16.

To achieve the goal of adequate housing for all, the backbone of the Strategy will rely on the principles of inclusive cities as the sound foundations for sustainable urban development. Inclusive cities are achieved by mainstreaming human rights in urban development, including housing and slum upgrading, to ensure social integration, aiming for elimination of urban divide.

The aim is that member states develop their National Housing Strategies. A National Habitat Strategy, as a pillar of the National Urban Policy, is a process of agreed sets of activities formalized in Strategy documents and their updates, which guide policies, planning, and programming of investment, management and maintenance activities in the area of housing, and slum upgrading and prevention. These need to be formulated with full involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Housing Strategies, at national and city levels, are inseparable from land-use strategies, infrastructure strategies, including mobility and local economic development strategies, all integrated in the broad, participatory and inclusive urban planning and management process, within the supportive legal and regulatory framework.

The expected outcomes of the UN-Habitat Global Housing Strategy will (re)position housing within the global contemporary debate on economically viable, environmentally and culturally sustainable and socially inclusive cities. Furthermore, several critical outcomes are to be achieved such as: a paradigm shift in thinking and practice in housing policy; Contributing to the global discourse and definition of the post Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Redefined role of governments beyond enablement, to reassuming a leadership role in encouraging pro-poor performance of the markets, facilitating and supporting demand capabilities of economically weakest sectors of the society; systemic reforms promoted to enable wider accessibility to adequate housing, with a variety of housing solutions matching effective demands; Strengthened linkages of housing with other parts of the economy and ensued economic development, employment generation and poverty reduction; decentralization of housing

production and empowerment of different actors and modalities of housing development; increased use of sustainable building and neighbourhood designs and technologies towards more cost-effective, flexible and energy-efficient solutions. Most importantly, the aim is to impact significantly and measurably on the improvement of housing and living conditions of a large proportion of population aiming at poverty reduction.

### Objectives:

- To increase awareness about the Global Housing Strategy (GHS)
- To share GHS principles, approaches
- To discuss various strategies from the perspectives of various partners groups for elaborating National and Local Housing Strategies at country level aiming at addressing issues to scale;
- To discuss and exchange ideas regarding potential commitments of the various partners.

### Proposed format:

The presentations, organized in a panel, will be followed by an interactive discussion on the GHS principles, expected accomplishments and formats for partnership. The following items throughout the panel presentations are planned:

- Key note address of the UN-Habitat Executive Director on UN-Habitat's new vision for housing as an integral part of urban planning;
- Presentation of the GHS Framework Document and achievements to date regarding the partnership building and utilization of the social media as a driver of international exchanges;
- GHS Partners will present their views regarding their needs from and their contributions to GHS including statements and interventions by representatives of:
  - Central Government
  - Local Government
  - Academia
  - Civil Society/Private Sector
  - External support agencies
- Discussion;
- Conclusions