

# United Nations Human Settlements Programme

# Report to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on Housing and Slum Upgrading

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## 1 1 Executive Summary

## 2 Matters calling for action

#### 2.1 Draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly

- Recognizing the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is already in place with a joint effort of the 5 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, the European Commission (EC) and UN-Habitat,
- Observing the programme's purpose regarding its capacity in working with local, central and regional institutions and key stakeholders through the motives of good governance in order to upgrade slum development,
- 8 Further noting PSUP's work connection with local and national stakeholders regarding key slum upgrading 9 projects and the establishment of short term goals,
- 10 Acknowledging PSUP's work in providing a foundation for South to South cooperation and knowledge,
- 11 Deeply concerned that these efforts are coming to an end in December of 2015,
- 12 1. Calls upon the General Assembly to extend the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme of 2008, to 2025;
- 2. Recommends all Member States that have previously participated in PSUP to both engage in knowledge sharing practices and South to South cooperation;
- 3. Welcomes nations that have not participated in PSUP to explore opportunities within the urban initia-
- 4. Suggests a comprehensive review by all parties involved to create a foundation in the extension of the practices of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

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- 21 Affirming that sanitation is the means of promoting health through prevention of human contact with the 22 hazards of waste, as well as the treatment and proper disposal of sewage or wastewater,
- Recognizing that there are two types of nations in the global community: the developing nations and the developed nations, each having their own short-term and long-term developmental goals,
- Recognizing these distinctions the committee proposes solutions on three major sanitation issues for the different types of countries,
  - Bearing in mind that diarrheal diseases kill approximately 1.8 million people per year,
- Deeply regretting that globally, approximately 2.5 billion cases of diarrhea occur among children under 5 years old every year,
  - Fully aware that 80 percent of those cases are in Africa and South Asia,
- Noting with approval that The World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank promote handwashing with soap as the most efficient and cost effective intervention to reduce this tragic statistic,
- Realizing that water is a fundamental human need and that each person on Earth requires at least 20 to 50 liters of clean, safe water a day for drinking, cooking, and simply keeping themselves clean,
- Reaffirming that the United Nations considers universal access to clean water a basic human right, and an essential step towards improving living standards worldwide,
- Noting with concern that water-poor communities are typically economically poor as well, their residents trapped in an ongoing cycle of poverty,
- 39 Guided by the principal that basic sanitation facilities can alleviate conditions of slum dwellers significantly,
- 40 Emphasizing that human waste management is a complicated issue for urban and rural areas,

- 1. Calls upon the United Nations to form a comprehensive partnership with non state actors that are dedicated to the improvement of sanitary conditions through:
- (a) Partnering up with non governmental organizations and other such non profit organizations which promote the distributions and facilitation of basic sanitary products and hygiene etiquette;
- 2. Resolves with specificity towards urban slums in developing nations with regards to clean water advocacy, proposes the following short-term solutions:
  - (a) Spreading basic education about importance of clean water;
  - (b) Encouraging portable water purification devices like chlorine based halzone tablets;
  - (c) Providing instructions to governmental agencies on how to properly dispense chlorine tablets in their countries with focus on the importance of utilizing cheap preventive measures in order to avoid the need to seek expensive medical care;
- 52 (d) Encouraging nations and states to consider urban slums in developed nations in regards to clean 53 water advocacy, proposes the following short term solutions;
  - (e) Encouraging potable water strategies;
  - (f) Encouraging carbon purification;

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- (g) Integrating the importance of maintaining hygiene in disease prevention and control;
- 3. *Encourages* nations and states to consider urban slums in developed nations in regards to clean water advocacy, proposes the following short term solutions:
  - (a) Spreading awareness about drought prevention and desertification;
- 60 (b) Adopting effective strategies like reducing water wastage to prepare the public for times of 61 drought;
  - (c) Encouraging governments to develop desalination plants to remove strain off of freshwater resources and to help prevent drought like situations which can be used as a common tool to create safe, drinking water that can be easily piped to inland cities and slums;
  - 4. Calls upon nations to acknowledge the needs of urban slums in developed nations with regards to clean water advocacy proposes the following long-term solutions;
- 5. Resolves with specificity towards urban slums in developing nations with regards to human waste management systems, proposes the following short-term solutions:
  - (a) Educating people about sanitary impacts of public defecations;
  - (b) Developing compost pits, to dispose of human waste in an efficient manner;
- 6. Further resolves with specificity towards urban slums in developing nations with regards to human waste management systems, proposes the following long-term solutions:
  - (a) Developing basic sanitation infrastructure with specific private bathrooms for women;
  - (b) Developing indoor plumbing for households located in slums and providing sanitation facilities within the households;
- 76 7. Further requests member states to identify the needs of urban slums in developed nations with regards to human waste management systems and proposes the following long-term solutions:
  - (a) Developing sewage systems from slums to water and human waste treatment plants to integrate slums as a part of the city as opposed to an exception from the city;
- 80 8. *Implores* that nations address refugee camps turned slums, which require our immediate attention with regards to specific sanitation related goals that we must address, including but not exclusive to:
- 82 (a) Providing water, shelter and sanitation and hygiene or WASH to internally displaced persons or 83 IDPs;

(b) Encouraging other nations and states to contribute resources that would help provide WASH to the thousands of IDPs, which would compose of providing short term assistance to refugees and migrants who are desperately in need of WASH.

#### 3 Consideration of the status

#### 3.1 Deliberations

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UN Habitat recognizes the importance of social and economic inclusion in urban revitalization initiatives. Utilizing a variety of different measures, this body believes that the eradication of low and nonexistent-income housing, including slums, is plausible. Such measures include transportation, access to services, mixed income neighborhoods, building of public "green space" as well as combined educational and recreational community facilities. The principles surrounding the consideration of these methods include community engagement and reducing isolation of residents in slum and low-income housing.

Noting the remaining issue of income inequality in many nations currently reducing their incidence of slums, this body suggests the promotion of mixed-income housing and mixed-income neighborhoods. In response to the isolation caused by segregated neighborhoods based on income, it is suggested that nations and cities promote housing units and neighborhoods with a certain amount of housing allotted for low income residences. This directly encourages engagement between social and economic classes. Suggesting that when public housing is developed, it be placed in a variety of neighborhoods composed of different economic statuses.

Public transportation can become an element of social and economic engagement in many ways. By providing an extensive network of transportation that integrates slum-housing and low-income neighborhoods into the rest of the city. This provides the residents the ability to access city services such as health care, education and recreation. Slum neighborhoods are often inaccessible due to landscape, terrain, and a lack of transportation infrastructure. It is important to note that many slum settlements typically do not have formal road networks, and when considering new transportation options, states ought to consider land tenure of slum residents if space creation becomes an issue. By providing networks of mass transit, residents from inside and outside of slum neighborhoods are able to enter and exit these neighborhoods and connect with the network of city services, economic opportunities and social engagement.

Access to city services includes amenities such as education, healthcare and public recreation. Access to healthcare is incredibly important in a variety of nations with public health crises and epidemic diseases. Many public health issues arise and diseases turn to epidemics when infrastructure does not provide citizens the opportunity to access the health care available to combat disease. Public transit can be advantageous to residents in lower and non-income areas in allowing them to seek greater economic opportunity, bolstering a nation's workforce, and potentially creating a workforce of its own. Providing transportation to rural areas prevents the need to relocate to periphery neighborhoods in search of economic opportunity and can prevent urban sprawl, a root cause of slum development.

For example, UN Habitat notes the success of Curitiba, Brazil in developing a city plan that includes a comprehensive bus system which was so successful that it has been used as a model for several other cities. A bussing system, when appropriate, can be a very affordable option that requires less investment and can utilize existing road networks, while also being moldable to the changing location demands of citizens.

UN Habitat also recommends a close examination of the successes seen in Medellin, Colombia. The homicide rate, which peaked at 381:100,000 people in 1991, has dropped to 50:100,000 in 2014 as coincided with development of public transportation networks. The city is notable also in regards to its usage of uniquely developed mass transit solutions that have provided transportation for slum neighborhoods previously inaccessible due to their mountainous geography. Medellin utilized urban escalators as well as a system of gondolas to provide connecting transport for a city limited by its rocky landscape.

As seen in a variety of examples around the world, such as Amsterdam and Singapore, there are programs currently in legislation that promote inclusion of nature in urban environments. These can include rooftop gardens, public green spaces and recreational spaces such as parks. By providing a space for the community in a variety of neighborhoods across a city, it allows residents a direct opportunity to engage with citizens from various backgrounds. Public green spaces encourages non-motorized transportation, as citizens are more likely to use parks and green space to travel around the city when it is available and it provides a significant network in the areas of the city that demand it.

Within the Netherlands, specifically the city of Amsterdam, bike lanes and bike-only streets are available throughout the city, designated to encourage goals such as environmental sustainability, safety, and especially to create more walkable and bike-able cities. In addition to road networks, the city itself implemented bike

sharing system that allows residents to easily rent a bike to allow bike travel for those without one. Public space and parks are also built throughout the city, as 89 out of 100 Dutch inhabitants are within one kilometer of a park, urban garden, public space, or natural area.

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In order to maximize outcomes of national housing policies, Malaysia supported the use of evidence based policies and reliable design programs for slum and housing upgrading, noting that these programs should be applied to how cities are formed and how resources are managed. The delegations of Qatar, Spain and Germany discussed the opportunities available with new technology, namely 3D printing to create portable houses that could be used in slums. Projects have already been undertaken in this area between Qatar and China and then Germany, Spain and Mexico. The method has been fairly successful so far and as technology continues to improve, this method will continue to be more efficient. While the printer costs money, there are a variety of cost effective materials which could be used for these projects. The concern was brought up of finding initial funding for the printers, but developed countries such as Germany remarked that they would be willing to fund this humanitarian work. The delegations of Liberia and Ghana expressed concern that 3D printing houses put too much emphasis on short term relief and wanted to focus more on long term solutions which would highlight skill building and job development among slum dwellers.

There was a wide consensus among Member States that there is a need to revitalize existing infrastructure with renewable energy technologies. Delegates favored an approach that would emphasize affordable housing, sustainable infrastructure, development of public transport, livability, urban resilience, land use efficiency and low carbon and environmental projects to compensate for and counteract climate change. Lebanon and Malaysia. in agreement with several Members States stressed the need for a people-centric slum development approach, citing that the approach should be based on strong engagement with local authorities, participatory development and respect for human rights. These Member States also expressed concern for the relationship between slums and the environment and maintained that development should occur along an environmentally-concious model. The delegation of Australia brought up the idea of passive house building, which is the idea of taking into account the environment in which a house is built. Such factors include incline of land, density of the foundation, orientation based on solar, climate and wind patterns and the preexisting forestation or other natural life. Another aspect of the passive house building ideology includes taking into account the way the environment will affect the house and building the house to be prepared for these changes. Another aspect of the passive house building framework is that in cases where it is recognized that the area will have prolonged access to the sun, it would be fitting to invest in adding solar panels to the roofs of housing. This not only would increase the sustainability of slums but also provide slum dwellers with improved access to electricity thereby improving their standard of living. Germany added the idea that due to the fact that slum areas are often victim to sewage off drain from factories or other malicious sources, in fortifying slum housing or creating new housing, care should be taken to distance slum dwellers from harmful waste products.

Member States expressed some of the difficulties faced by Member States in compensating for the pressure on their resources and infrastructure due to rural to urban migration, and cited that governments should continue to implement and develop inclusive national housing policies for sustainable urban development. Tunisia, Argentina and Namibia emphasized the need for affordable housing, and Tunisia cited cases where the housing market is dominated by higher income individuals and corporations that purchase the majority of available land. Somalia, Argentina and Singapore highlighted the benefits of including sustainability into slum upgrading projects in order to ensure the implementation of infrastructure which can endure during periods of conflicts and climate impacts.

The committee discussed various means of developing affordable housing. Delegates agreed that the United Nations Participatory Slum Upgrade Program helps lessen the costs of developing new infrastructure. Singapore and the Republic of Korea emphasized the need for public housing to lessen economic disparities and gentrification. UN Habitat agrees that public housing may also lessen housing discrimination with respect to ethnic and religious backgrounds. Cuba, Argentina, Tunisia, Germany and Singapore discussed the benefits of resource exchange programs to lessen the costs of developing new infrastructure. Argentina, Maldives, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Singapore agreed that urban aesthetics are important and emphasize the need to intersperse low and high-rise buildings. Maldives, Argentina, Republic of Korea, Germany, Malaysia and Singapore also discussed the need for sustainable buildings that can withstand natural disasters. The committee also discussed the benefits of vertical expansionary housing versus horizontal expansionary housing, noting that building upwards maximizes the amount of homes that can be built in a certain amount of space, other countries also mentioned the idea that aesthetics are important towards city planning as well, and a variety in vertical and horizontal development is ideal.

In terms of immediate short term housing, the delegation of Tunisia and Germany were strong advocates of shipping container housing. Shipping containers are ideal for short term relief because they are stable,

portable and cost effective, and can provide slum dwellers with a durable shelter. Furthermore, their flat roof enables the easy addition of solar panels - technology which would provide energy in a sustainable manner. Another short term solution that was proposed was the use of simple irrigation systems to increase access to water within slums. Delegates brought up the point that such housing programs would be adequate for dealing with refugee houding issues.

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Delegates brought up the point that such housing programs would be adequate for dealing with refugee housing issues. Delegates stressed the need for states to account for the projected growth of the populations and take these figures into account in their urban planning projects. Many Member States, including Lebanon, Turkey, Somalia, Greece, Singapore, and Senegal, with the support of Malaysia, expressed concerned for the living conditions faced by refugees, displaced peoples, and migrant workers. Lebanon advocated for recommending that the United Nations Security Council prioritize the resolution of the political crisis which is creating a influx of refugees who are forced into poor living situations. Some delegates disagreed with this view, stating concerns that such a recommendation wasn't within the purview of the commission. Turkey stressed that refugee housing needs to be conceptualized as a long term issue noting that refugees usually stay for a long time after they are settled and housing policies should also focus on integrating refugees into society through stable housing infrastructure and access to resources. Singapore also noted that migrant workers face similar situations. Senegal noted that migrant workers often head immediately to slums Member states advocate for states to find ways to house foreign workers in sustainable settings and improve their living standards. Somalia noted that while formulating housing policies to accommodate refugees is important, some states do not have the means to support displaced peoples and would promote existing funding mechanisms for providing assistance with resources.

To address this issue, Member States recommend that states take into account the possible influx of refugees and maintain that states should implement housing policies that can physically accommodate people in need of adequate housing housing. Delegates also emphasized the importance of improving economic opportunities with special attention to youth, gender and ethnic divides. States should formulate housing policies that are conscious of ethnic divides and strive to promote an inclusive method to lift people out of poverty.

The subcommittee for Education believes that education is one of the most impactfulways to enact meaningful change across internation bodies. Cooperation and collaboration happen best when different bodies become education on each others'needs and specific issues. Establishing a network of such communities would help toestablish a foundation for which developed and developing states can collaborate onunique solutions tailored to their individual cities. Such a program would allow developingnations to reap the benefits of research they may not have access to as well as procurethe proper funding to address issues that might otherwise go unrectified.

This committee suggests the creation of an open, inclusive, intelligent, and creativedialogue between heads of state, leaders, and experts at the local, state, and globallevels in order to facilitate a regular dissemination between Member States of tactics and strategies that have already been successfully implemented so as to increase the variety of potential policies that Member States can use when adapting to climatechange and implementing measures focused on its solution. To facilitate the rapidexchange of ideas each separate assembly of this forum should focus on a different topic than previous forums. The location, frequency, and duration of these forums could be decided by its leading contributors and Member States.

One possible route for establishing such a forum would be the establishment of sister citiesthrough programs like Sister Cities International. Sister Cities forms collaborative researchefforts and long-term relationships that are focused on areas of importance such asbusiness, trade, and educations' effects on the fight against climate change.

We also believe that climate change issues require action and cooperation from theinternational community, and that both should be strengthened in order to properly address the problem. While such action is primarily the responsibility of individual sovereigngovernments working within the United Nations system we would like to recognize theimportance of community action and should provide encouragement to individual governments that prove determined to take effective action on the issue of climatechange. We believe that the least advantaged, both in rural and urban human settlements, require special attention and requires the consolidation and reinforcement of the existing United Nations support programs, and we consider this an urgent matterworthy of great priority.

We would like to enumerate that several nations in this body have been very successfulin taking steps to improve education on the topic of climate change, both within their own state and internationally. Many of these states have identified the specific causes of climate change within their own regions and have taken appropriate measures toaddress those problems. This committee believes these states should offer their findings to businesses

operating inside their borders and encourage them to actively participate the education of their populace and the creation of a greener environment. Businessesshould also be encouraged to implement policies that are healthier for the environmentand result in fewer negative repercussions vis-a-vis climate change.

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It is important that the United Nations set aside funding for educational programs to inform people of this issue that that we havegreat influence over. There are many Climate Change Education (CCE) funding opportunities which are available through numerous public and privateorganizations. Financial support that these organizations, such as The United Nations Alliance on Climate Change (CCE) and private philanthropists, offerinclude grants for schools and community groups, achievement awards for both educators and students and environmental education scholarships.

There are many trust funds and bodies that currently focus greatly on education, including the European Union and, more specifically, Portugal. This body commends these bodies that have taken similar measures and would like to further encourage other Member States to participate in similar programs.

The Housing and Infrastructure discussion group recognizes that the topics of affordable housing and slum upgrading are of utmost urgency. Beyond reactionary measures that equid slums with better living standards, the Delegations of Serbia and Tunisia advise the body to consider the implementation of a government subsidy program that actively allows slum-dwelling populations to receive adequate housing. The efforts of this program would be concentrated in urban areas such as large cites, as that is where the majority of slums are located. This body advises countries to consider encouraging their domestic governments to provide adjustable subsidies that would be directly applied to certain housing facilities to make them more affordable for citizens under a certain income bracket (to be determined by independent member states).

In conjunction with applying these subsidies, the aforementioned delegations would further recommend that member states consider implementing a vacant land tax. This program entails that if a plot or area of land has been vacant or unused for a standard duration of time (to be determined by independent member states), then the government can consider imposing a tax on this land. The funds obtained from this tax can be used to strengthen other affordable housing programs.

Beyond the subsidy program, we advise that member states consider implementing low cost housing materials and low energy housing. These are two options that can help lower the costs of housing and promote affordable housing. We encourage the increased use, access, and development of utilizing low-cost materials. We also recommend that countries try to develop housing with lower energy costs in mind. Some methods to achieve lower costing energies that this body recommends are: adequate and efficient insulation, utilizing more energy-efficient appliances, improved ventilation systems, and implementing a program on educating the populations on efficient and appropriate energy usage.

Global Developmental Partnerships (GDP) promoting the encouragement of human capital would improve urban environments. This international program would provide short term programs to affect long term change.

Determined on a project to project basis, participation in this scheme would be left up to an individual country's discretion. There would be no global mandate requiring participation.

GDP would consist of two partner countries: the requesting party and the appropriating party. The requesting state has great variability in inviting assistance for exchange of information. Currently suggested topics for assistance include: economic development, health and sanitation practices, leadership training, and infrastructure and agricultural practices.

Logistics regarding individuals sent, pre-departure training, and duration spent in the requesting nation is to to be determined between the partners. Countries would be encouraged to include experts within their relevant fields. These would be appropriated based on their relative skill set, in a communicative exchange of what knowledge is necessary.

This education should be an overarching goal of improving slum communities through the development of global capital. It would improve urban resiliency through directed training by international volunteers.

The delegation from China noted that public (private) partnerships are foundational to any proposed solutions to the urban housing problems prevalent across member states. Using existing partnerships between China and several African countries as models for success, UN-Habitat views the establishment of situational collaborative efforts as key to moving towards the elimination of slums in cities across the world. There are two component

ideas associated, that of public to public partnerships as well as public to private partnerships, which focus on interstate and intrastate collaborations, respectively. Such shared efforts consist of situational agreements between two consenting parties: one of which will provide funding for sustainable development in exchange for profit or resource sharing initiatives. This is an ideal strategy to work collaboratively towards solutions, and has been a component of past resolutions aimed at achieving and surpassing the Millennium Development Goals, notably General Assembly Resolution 65/1 (clause 56).

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Rudimentary education is a process that strengthens the resiliency of urban environments through the development of human capital. This program is, ultimately, a short-term solution with long-term effects. This must be a recommendation of this body.

Interactions between citizens and their governments would provide skill sets that would allow populations to have the resources to upgrade themselves and improve their standard of living. In pursuit of this, direct civilian participation is of the utmost concern. Populations must prepare themselves for standards of living in their environment and must be given the resources to do so.

Extrapolation of programs such as that in Uruguay, which created a mutual union of governmental services and civilian participation, allowed for direct advancement of educational improvement goals. There is inherent value in a customized, national process, as marginalization of cultures in pursuit of education must not be recognized.

Resources must be provided to address specific goals. For example, farming could be improved via agricultural techniques, employment opportunities could be encouraged via opportunistic search for openings, literacy, through teaching elementary reading and writing, and sanitation, which would offer a healthy standard for living.

In addition to specific goals, there is value in lens-focused education. For example, if a country is concerned with gender inequality or sexual violence, there could be development of that education, specifically cultural dialogue.

319 This dialogue could be expanded by promotion of digital resources, such as Internet connectivity. Providing Internet resources that allows developing populations to access such resources is integral. An appeal to 320 global communication is appropriate.

Debilitating deficiencies in health knowledge and medical service must also be prioritized. Health related conversations are of course a part of any process.

Notably, development is not permanent. This body must recognize that sustaining an education of an individual citizen for longer than what is necessary is not sound. There would be development of the resources that a country needs in the short term, not irrelevant education.

There must be, however, a standard of education for these communities. In pursuit of this, citizen volunteers and international experts could administrate such programs. Voluntary participation must be encouraged, but participation would not be required.

Countries that accept volunteers to educate would provide basic room and board, but no additional stipend would be mandated. These volunteers would be localized, in regard and sensitive to informal institutions. These individuals would dialogue among their respective populations and advocate development of proficiencies.

Education is an inalienable human right, a necessary and fundamental approach to extending communities a value basis for proactive sustainability and growth. While there is value in financial resources, we must teach educational processes.

UN Habitat has already asserted that adequate housing is a human right. This includes the right to stability and protection against arbitrary interference with homes, family and privacy. More than simply infrastructure, adequate housing includes, but is not limited to: security of tenure, availability of services, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy. UN Habitat would like to recognize the cogency of conflict in the creation of slums. UN Habitat notes that slums are likely to form in periods immediately following conflict. This committee commends the efforts to provide temporary housing and infrastructure in post-conflict situations, however recognizes the need for long term reconstruction programs. The Habitat II Agenda mentions vulnerable groups and people with special needs and stresses that they are more likely to be pushed into disadvantaged housing. The committee would like to recognize that peoples affected by conflict and living in post-conflict areas are especially vulnerable.

Post-conflict areas are defined by the committee as areas that have recently experienced conflict but are also determined safe to receive assistance by the relevant IGOs and NGOs, meaning that the organizations called upon are willing to work in the affected area. UN Habitat notes that the term ?post-conflict phase? may not apply to the totality of a nation state, but instead applies to individual cities, regions, or smaller sections of the state.

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UN Habitat acknowledges that inadequate housing in communities is both a symptom and a perpetuator of violence. Thus, this committee recognizes that the following suggestions are viable ways to encourage the building of comprehensive communities including resources such as access to education, sanitation, and community centers with the objective of decreasing all forms of violence and creating environments in which endangered youth is invested in the community rather than exposed to destructive practices. UN Habitat has addressed the subject topic of youth and post-conflict situations during the first Global Forum on Youth Policies in October 2014.

The building of comprehensive committees requires multifaceted responses from non-governmental organizations as well as affected peoples, and coordination with local authorities. In order to do so, this committee recognizes as a valid initiative the formation of programs allowing affected populations to help restore their communities through employment opportunities in rebuilding the destroyed infrastructure. We would like to remind the general assembly of previous initiatives by UN Habitat, such as the Cities Alliance, in promoting collaboration between states and private sectors and allowing non-state delivery capacity. UN Habitat urges the international community as well as this body?s nation states to assist and invest both logistically and financially.

In addition to the topics mentioned above, this committee believes that building comprehensive communities should also take special consideration to maintenance of their cultural integrity. This body recognizes as possible solutions for these issues: ensuring architecture of reconstructed buildings, and the creation of new dwellings is consistent with traditional aesthetics, putting an emphasis on reconstructing culturally relevant monuments and gathering places, maintaining the urban layout that is efficient and culturally relevant to a population. Efforts towards preservation of culture would help reaffirm the identity and cohesion of the community, creating a space that fosters the growth of healthy communities, preventing the emergence of slums and informal settlements.

Although waste management and sanitation technologies have already been implemented in some developing nations, these solutions are often underutilized due to lack of education and conflicting cultural beliefs. Nearly one billion people in the world still defecate in the open, including circumstances where they have access to sanitation technologies such as toilets. Fully aware that public and private sectors have worked together to confront issues of sanitation, the UN Habitat Committee urges that the other Member States and private sectors acknowledge that the existence of cultural boundaries impedes sanitation education. Sanitation technologies must be developed in accordance with cultural beliefs, such as respecting cultural attitudes towards females while providing them with the privacy needed to utilize waste management technologies. We strongly believe that sanitation programs need to be co-implemented with educational programs to take away the fear and stigma of adopting new methods of sanitation and to teach populations the importance of these sanitation technologies.

When approaching the building and strengthening of these infrastructures, it is also crucial to remember that toilets are absolutely necessary for removing human waste because open waste represents a major health crisis currently. The foul smell aside, it becomes a health risk to the civilians of the Member States with no proper sewage. Toilets are needed for the collection of human waste. For example, millions of gallons of raw sewage drain into Ganges River each day. Diarrhea often caused by fecal matter kills 600,000 Indians per year. This illustrates how important proper sewage is to help these people not only have the option to flush, but to save their lives at the same time. The delegate of India has proposed an idea that had been implemented in India whereby fecal matter is converted into biomass and it is not only an option for proper sanitation, but it also has an upside of a possible saving an equivalent of USD9.5 billion in non-renewable natural gas as reported by the UN. This conversion could also provide electricity to 138 million homes.

Furthermore, we assert the significance of responding to sanitation issues surrounding women specifically. Increasing access to feminine hygiene via providing clean water and proper sanitation will reduce incidence of death. Feminine hygiene seemed to be tackled by South Africa as south Africa has eliminated about 50% of women death pertaining to birth. However, as much progress as South Africa and recognizing all other States have made, there are still millions of other mothers dying due to the lack of proper sanitation and this still applies to majority of the less developed and developing states.

The UN Habitat Committee would also like to emphasise that the lack of access to clean water introduces violence to both women and children of the slums. These children and women have to travel a long distance just for a glass of clean water. Clean water is a huge issue with slums in the less developed and developing

countries. Clean water is important when it comes to the health of the citizens. Without clean water, it is pointless to move forward speaking about other issues. In South Africa, approximately 157 million people are not connected to clean and safe water systems causing the need for use of external water sources. According to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), in 2008, five million people were still in need of adequate supplies, while three times more (fifteen million) lacked sanitation. For instance, in South Africa, the Orange River is contaminated due to the lack of sanitation. This lack of sanitation introduced people to serious risk of infection.

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In conjunction with applying these subsidies, the aforementioned delegations would further recommend that member states consider implementing a vacant land tax. This program entails that if a plot or area of land has been vacant or unused for a standard duration of time (to be determined by independent member states), then the government can consider imposing a tax on this land. The funds obtained from this tax can be used to strengthen other affordable housing programs.

Beyond the subsidy program, we advise that member states consider implementing low cost housing materials and low energy housing. These are two options that can help lower the costs of housing and promote affordable housing. We encourage the increased use, access, and development of utilizing low-cost materials. We also recommend that countries try to develop housing with lower energy costs in mind. Some methods to achieve lower costing energies that this body recommends are: adequate and efficient insulation, utilizing more energy-efficient appliances, improved ventilation systems, and implementing a program on educating the populations on efficient and appropriate energy usage.

UN Habitat has already asserted that adequate housing is a human right. This includes the right to stability and protection against arbitrary interference with homes, family and privacy. More than simply infrastructure, adequate housing includes, but is not limited to: security of tenure, availability of services, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy. UN Habitat would like to recognize the cogency of conflict in the creation of slums. UN Habitat notes that slums are likely to form in periods immediately following conflict. This committee commends the efforts to provide temporary housing and infrastructure in post-conflict situations, however recognizes the need for long term reconstruction programs. The Habitat II Agenda mentions vulnerable groups and people with special needs and stresses that they are more likely to be pushed into disadvantaged housing. The committee would like to recognize that peoples affected by conflict and living in post-conflict areas are especially vulnerable.

Post-conflict areas are defined by the committee as areas that have recently experienced conflict but are also determined safe to receive assistance by the relevant IGOs and NGOs, meaning that the organizations called upon are willing to work in the affected area. UN Habitat notes that the term ?post-conflict phase? may not apply to the totality of a nation state, but instead applies to individual cities, regions, or smaller sections of the state.

UN Habitat acknowledges that inadequate housing in communities is both a symptom and a perpetuator of violence. Thus, this committee recognizes that the following suggestions are viable ways to encourage the building of comprehensive communities including resources such as access to education, sanitation, and community centers with the objective of decreasing all forms of violence and creating environments in which endangered youth is invested in the community rather than exposed to destructive practices. UN Habitat has addressed the subject topic of youth and post-conflict situations during the first Global Forum on Youth Policies in October 2014.

The building of comprehensive committees requires multifaceted responses from non-governmental organizations as well as affected peoples, and coordination with local authorities. In order to do so, this committee recognizes as a valid initiative the formation of programs allowing affected populations to help restore their communities through employment opportunities in rebuilding the destroyed infrastructure. We would like to remind the general assembly of previous initiatives by UN Habitat, such as the Cities Alliance, in promoting collaboration between states and private sectors and allowing non-state delivery capacity. UN Habitat urges the international community as well as this body?s nation states to assist and invest both logistically and financially.

In addition to the topics mentioned above, this committee believes that building comprehensive communities should also take special consideration to maintenance of their cultural integrity. This body recognizes as possible solutions for these issues: ensuring architecture of reconstructed buildings, and the creation of new dwellings is consistent with traditional aesthetics, putting an emphasis on reconstructing culturally relevant monuments and gathering places, maintaining the urban layout that is efficient and culturally relevant to a population. Efforts towards preservation of culture would help reaffirm the identity and cohesion of the community, creating a space that fosters the growth of healthy communities, preventing the emergence of slums and informal settlements.

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UN Habitat recognizes the importance of social and economic inclusion in urban revitalization initiatives. Utilizing a variety of different measures, this body believes that the eradication of low and nonexistent-income housing, including slums, is plausible. Such measures include transportation, access to services, mixed income neighborhoods, building of public "green space" as well as combined educational and recreational community facilities. The principles surrounding the consideration of these methods include community engagement and reducing isolation of residents in slum and low-income housing.

Public transportation can become an element of social and economic engagement in many ways. By providing an extensive network of transportation that integrates slum-housing and low-income neighborhoods into the rest of the city. This provides the residents the ability to access city services such as health care, education and recreation. Slum neighborhoods are often inaccessible due to landscape, terrain, and a lack of transportation infrastructure. It is important to note that many slum settlements typically do not have formal road networks, and when considering new transportation options, states ought to consider land tenure of slum residents if space creation becomes an issue. By providing networks of mass transit, residents from inside and outside of slum neighborhoods are able to enter and exit these neighborhoods and connect with the network of city services, economic opportunities and social engagement.

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Access to city services includes amenities such as education, healthcare and public recreation. Access to healthcare is incredibly important in a variety of nations with public health crises and epidemic diseases. Many public health issues arise and diseases turn to epidemics when infrastructure does not provide citizens the opportunity to access the health care available to combat disease. Public transit can be advantageous to residents in lower and non-income areas in allowing them to seek greater economic opportunity, bolstering a nation's workforce, and potentially creating a workforce of its own. Providing transportation to rural areas prevents the need to relocate to periphery neighborhoods in search of economic opportunity and can prevent urban sprawl, a root cause of slum development.

For example, UN Habitat notes the success of Curitiba, Brazil in developing a city plan that includes a comprehensive bus system which was so successful that it has been used as a model for several other cities. A bussing system, when appropriate, can be a very affordable option that requires less investment and can utilize existing road networks, while also being moldable to the changing location demands of citizens.

UN Habitat also recommends a close examination of the successes seen in Medellin, Colombia. The homicide rate, which peaked at 381:100,000 people in 1991, has dropped to 50:100,000 in 2014 as coincided with development of public transportation networks. The city is notable also in regards to its usage of uniquely developed mass transit solutions that have provided transportation for slum neighborhoods previously inaccessible due to their mountainous geography. Medellin utilized urban escalators as well as a system of gondolas to provide connecting transport for a city limited by its rocky landscape.

As seen in a variety of examples around the world, such as Amsterdam and Singapore, there are programs currently in legislation that promote inclusion of nature in urban environments. These can include rooftop gardens, public green spaces and recreational spaces such as parks. By providing a space for the community in a variety of neighborhoods across a city, it allows residents a direct opportunity to engage with citizens from various backgrounds. Public green spaces encourages non-motorized transportation, as citizens are more likely to use parks

and green space to travel around the city when it is available and it provides a significant network in the areas of the city that demand it.

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Within the Netherlands, specifically the city of Amsterdam, bike lanes and bike-only streets are available throughout the city, designated to encourage goals such as environmental sustainability, safety, and especially to create more walkable and bike-able cities. In addition to road networks, the city itself implemented bike sharing system that allows residents to easily rent a bike to allow bike travel for those without one. Public space and parks are also built throughout the city, as 89 out of 100 Dutch inhabitants are within one kilometer of a park, urban garden, public space, or natural area.

In order to maximize outcomes of national housing policies, Malaysia supported the use of evidence based policies and reliable design programs for slum and housing upgrading, noting that these programs should be applied to how cities are formed and how resources are managed. The delegations of Qatar, Spain and Germany discussed the opportunities available with new technology, namely 3D printing to create portable houses that could be used in slums. Projects have already been undertaken in this area between Qatar and China and then Germany, Spain and Mexico. The method has been fairly successful so far and as technology continues to improve, this method will continue to be more efficient. While the printer costs money, there are a variety of cost effective materials which could be used for these projects. The concern was brought up of finding initial funding for the printers, but developed countries such as Germany remarked that they would be willing to fund this humanitarian work. The delegations of Liberia and Ghana expressed concern that 3D printing houses put too much emphasis on short term relief and wanted to focus more on long term solutions which would highlight skill building and job development among slum dwellers.

There was a wide consensus among Member States that there is a need to revitalize existing infrastructure with renewable energy technologies. Delegates favored an approach that would emphasize affordable housing, sustainable infrastructure, development of public transport, livability, urban resilience, land use efficiency and low carbon and environmental projects to compensate for and counteract climate change. Lebanon and Malaysia. in agreement with several Members States stressed the need for a people-centric slum development approach, citing that the approach should be based on strong engagement with local authorities, participatory development and respect for human rights. These Member States also expressed concern for the relationship between slums and the environment and maintained that development should occur along an environmentally-concious model. The delegation of Australia brought up the idea of passive house building, which is the idea of taking into account the environment in which a house is built. Such factors include incline of land, density of the foundation, orientation based on solar, climate and wind patterns and the preexisting forestation or other natural life. Another aspect of the passive house building ideology includes taking into account the way the environment will affect the house and building the house to be prepared for these changes. Another aspect of the passive house building framework is that in cases where it is recognized that the area will have prolonged access to the sun, it would be fitting to invest in adding solar panels to the roofs of housing. This not only would increase the sustainability of slums but also provide slum dwellers with improved access to electricity thereby improving their standard of living. Germany added the idea that due to the fact that slum areas are often victim to sewage off drain from factories or other malicious sources, in fortifying slum housing or creating new housing, care should be taken to distance slum dwellers from harmful waste products.

Member States expressed some of the difficulties faced by Member States in compensating for the pressure on their resources and infrastructure due to rural to urban migration, and cited that governments should continue to implement and develop inclusive national housing policies for sustainable urban development. Tunisia, Argentina and Namibia emphasized the need for affordable housing, and Tunisia cited cases where the housing market is dominated by higher income individuals and corporations that purchase the majority of available land. Somalia, Argentina and Singapore highlighted the benefits of including sustainability into slum upgrading projects in order to ensure the implementation of infrastructure which can endure during periods of conflicts and climate impacts.

The committee discussed various means of developing affordable housing. Delegates agreed that the United Nations Participatory Slum Upgrade Program helps lessen the costs of developing new infrastructure. Singapore and the Republic of Korea emphasized the need for public housing to lessen economic disparities and gentrification. UN Habitat agrees that public housing may also lessen housing discrimination with respect to ethnic and religious backgrounds. Cuba, Argentina, Tunisia, Germany and Singapore discussed the benefits of resource exchange programs to lessen the costs of developing new infrastructure. Argentina, Maldives, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Singapore agreed that urban aesthetics are important and emphasize the need to intersperse low and high-rise buildings. Maldives, Argentina, Republic of Korea, Germany, Malaysia and Singapore also discussed the need for sustainable buildings that can withstand natural disasters. The committee also discussed the benefits of vertical

expansionary housing versus horizontal expansionary housing, noting that building upwards maximizes the amount of homes that can be built in a certain amount of space, other countries also mentioned the idea that aesthetics are important towards city planning as well, and a variety in vertical and horizontal development is ideal.

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In terms of immediate short term housing, the delegation of Tunisia and Germany were strong advocates of shipping container housing. Shipping containers are ideal for short term relief because they are stable, portable and cost effective, and can provide slum dwellers with a durable shelter. Furthermore, their flat roof enables the easy addition of solar panels - technology which would provide energy in a sustainable manner. Another short term solution that was proposed was the use of simple irrigation systems to increase access to water within slums. Delegates brought up the point that such housing programs would be adequate for dealing with refugee houding issues.

Delegates brought up the point that such housing programs would be adequate for dealing with refugee housing issues. Delegates stressed the need for states to account for the projected growth of the populations and take these figures into account in their urban planning projects. Many Member States, including Lebanon, Turkey, Somalia, Greece, Singapore, and Senegal, with the support of Malaysia, expressed concerned for the living conditions faced by refugees, displaced peoples, and migrant workers. Lebanon advocated for recommending that the United Nations Security Council prioritize the resolution of the political crisis which is creating a influx of refugees who are forced into poor living situations. Some delegates disagreed with this view, stating concerns that such a recommendation wasn't within the purview of the commission. Turkey stressed that refugee housing needs to be conceptualized as a long term issue noting that refugees usually stay for a long time after they are settled and housing policies should also focus on integrating refugees into society through stable housing infrastructure and access to resources. Singapore also noted that migrant workers face similar situations. Senegal noted that migrant workers often head immediately to slums Member states advocate for states to find ways to house foreign workers in sustainable settings and improve their living standards. Somalia noted that while formulating housing policies to accommodate refugees is important, some states do not have the means to support displaced peoples and would promote existing funding mechanisms for providing assistance with resources.

To address this issue, Member States recommend that states take into account the possible influx of refugees and maintain that states should implement housing policies that can physically accommodate people in need of adequate housing housing. Delegates also emphasized the importance of improving economic opportunities with special attention to youth, gender and ethnic divides. States should formulate housing policies that are conscious of ethnic divides and strive to promote an inclusive method to lift people out of poverty.

The subcommittee for Education believes that education is one of the most impactfulways to enact meaningful change across internation bodies. Cooperation and collaboration happen best when different bodies become education on each others'needs and specific issues. Establishing a network of such communities would help toestablish a foundation for which developed and developing states can collaborate onunique solutions tailored to their individual cities. Such a program would allow developing nations to reap the benefits of research they may not have access to as well as procurethe proper funding to address issues that might otherwise go unrectified.

This committee suggests the creation of an open, inclusive, intelligent, and creativedialogue between heads of state, leaders, and experts at the local, state, and globallevels in order to facilitate a regular dissemination between Member States of tactics and strategies that have already been successfully implemented so as to increase the variety of potential policies that Member States can use when adapting to climatechange and implementing measures focused on its solution. To facilitate the rapidexchange of ideas each separate assembly of this forum should focus on a different topic than previous forums. The location, frequency, and duration of these forums could be decided by its leading contributors and member states.

One possible route for establishing such a forum would be the establishment of sister citiesthrough programs like Sister Cities International. Sister Cities forms collaborative researchefforts and long-term relationships that are focused on areas of importance such asbusiness, trade, and educations' effects on the fight against climate change.

We also believe that climate change issues require action and cooperation from theinternational community, and that both should be strengthened in order to properly address the problem. While such action is primarily the responsibility of individul sovereigngovernments working within the United Nations system we would like to recognize theimportance of community action and should provide encouragement to individual governments that prove determined to take effective action on the issue of climatechange. We believe that the least advantaged, both in rural and urban human settlements, require special attention and requires the consolidation and reinforcement of

612 the existing United Nations support programs, and we consider this an urgent matterworthy of great priority.

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We would like to enumerate that several nations in this body have been very successfulin taking steps to improve education on the topic of climate change, both within theirown state and internationally. Many of these states have identified the specific causesof climate change within their own regions and have taken appropriate measures toaddress those problems. This committee believes these states should offer their findingsto businesses operating inside their borders and encourage them to actively participate the education of their populace and the creation of a greener environment. Businessesshould also be encouraged to implement policies that are healthier for the environmentand result in fewer negative repercussions vis-a-vis climate change.

It is important that the United Nations set aside funding for educational programs to inform people of this issue that that we havegreat influence over. There are many Climate Change Education (CCE) funding opportunities which are available through numerous public and privateorganizations. Financial support that these organizations, such as The United Nations Alliance on Climate Change (CCE) and private philanthropists, offerinclude grants for schools and community groups, achievement awards for both educators and students and environmental education scholarships.

There are many trust funds and bodies that currently focus greatly on education, including the European Union and, more specifically, Portugal. This body commends these bodies that have taken similar measures and would like to further encourage other member states to participate in similar programs.

Global Developmental Partnerships (GDP) promoting the encouragement of human capital would improve urban environments. This international program would provide short term programs to affect long term change.

Determined on a project to project basis, participation in this scheme would be left up to an individual country's discretion. There would be no global mandate requiring participation.

GDP would consist of two partner countries: the requesting party and the appropriating party. The requesting state has great variability in inviting assistance for exchange of information. Currently suggested topics for assistance include: economic development, health and sanitation practices, leadership training, and infrastructure and agricultural practices.

Logistics regarding individuals sent, pre-departure training, and duration spent in the requesting nation is to to be determined between the partners. Countries would be encouraged to include experts within their relevant fields. These would be appropriated based on their relative skill set, in a communicative exchange of what knowledge is necessary.

This education should be an overarching goal of improving slum communities through the development of global capital. It would improve urban resiliency through directed training by international volunteers.

The delegation from China noted that public (private) partnerships are foundational to any proposed solutions to the urban housing problems prevalent across member states. Using existing partnerships between China and several African countries as models for success, UN-Habitat views the establishment of situational collaborative efforts as key to moving towards the elimination of slums in cities across the world. There are two component ideas associated, that of public to public partnerships as well as public to private partnerships, which focus on interstate and intrastate collaborations, respectively. Such shared efforts consist of situational agreements between two consenting parties: one of which will provide funding for sustainable development in exchange for profit or resource sharing initiatives. This is an ideal strategy to work collaboratively towards solutions, and has been a component of past resolutions aimed at achieving and surpassing the Millennium Development Goals, notably General Assembly Resolution 65/1 (clause 56).

Rudimentary education is a process that strengthens the resiliency of urban environments through the development of human capital. This program is, ultimately, a short-term solution with long-term effects. This must be a recommendation of this body.

Interactions between citizens and their governments would provide skill sets that would allow populations to have the resources to upgrade themselves and improve their standard of living. In pursuit of this, direct civilian participation is of the utmost concern. Populations must prepare themselves for standards of living in their environment and must be given the resources to do so.

Extrapolation of programs such as that in Uruguay, which created a mutual union of governmental services and civilian participation, allowed for direct advancement of educational improvement goals. There is

inherent value in a customized, national process, as marginalization of cultures in pursuit of education must not be recognized.

Resources must be provided to address specific goals. For example, farming could be improved via agricultural techniques, employment opportunities could be encouraged via opportunistic search for openings, literacy, through teaching elementary reading and writing, and sanitation, which would offer a healthy standard for living.

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In addition to specific goals, there is value in lens-focused education. For example, if a country is concerned with gender inequality or sexual violence, there could be development of that education, specifically cultural dialogue.

This dialogue could be expanded by promotion of digital resources, such as Internet connectivity. Providing Internet resources that allows developing populations to access such resources is integral. An appeal to global communication is appropriate.

Debilitating deficiencies in health knowledge and medical service must also be prioritized. Health related conversations are of course a part of any process.

Notably, development is not permanent. This body must recognize that sustaining an education of an individual citizen for longer than what is necessary is not sound. There would be development of the resources that a country needs in the short term, not irrelevant education.

There must be, however, a standard of education for these communities. In pursuit of this, citizen volunteers and international experts could administrate such programs. Voluntary participation must be encouraged, but participation would not be required.

Countries that accept volunteers to educate would provide basic room and board, but no additional stipend would be mandated. These volunteers would be localized, in regard and sensitive to informal institutions. These individuals would dialogue among their respective populations and advocate development of proficiencies.

Education is an inalienable human right, a neccessary and fundamental approach to extending communities a value basis for proactive sustainability and growth. While there is value in financial resources, we must teach educational processes.

# 689 4 Adoption of the report

At its meeting, the draft report of the Programme was made available for consideration. The Programme considered the report, and with no amendments, adopted the report by consensus with abstentions from Afghanistan, China, Greece, Mali, Qatar and Uruguay.

Passed by consensus, with 6 abstentions