



Rabat Declaration

“Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge for 2020”

We, the participants gathered in Rabat, Morocco, from 26 to 28 November 2012 at the international conference “Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge for 2020”, under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King to review and share global progress in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010 and devise a strategy for inclusive, sustainable and prosperous cities;

Expressing our gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco and UN-Habitat for efforts made in hosting and convening this international conference;

Emphasizing our commitment to the promotion of sustainable urbanization and recalling the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, and the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals;

Reaffirming the Millennium Development Goal 7, Target D to ‘by 2020 have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers’, and seeking to build upon it; and **acknowledging** that a slum household is defined as a group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following elements: access to drinking water, access to improved sanitation facilities, secure tenure, sufficient living area and durability of housing;

Recalling the Resolutions of the UN-Habitat Governing Council 23/16 on the Formulation of a Global Housing Strategy and 23/9 on Global and National Strategies and Frameworks for Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals Target;

Noting the irreversibility of urbanization and its positive impact in advancing human development and poverty reduction and the importance of slum upgrading and prevention in reducing the physical, social and economic vulnerability of slum dwellers, and strengthening the existing social capital in their communities;

Recognizing the need to promote inclusive slum upgrading and prevention strategies that go beyond physical and environmental improvements and ensure that slums are fully integrated into the political, social, cultural, and economic dimensions of cities with a view to reducing urban poverty and inequality;

Underlining that new and additional actions must be taken at all levels, taking into account the wide variation of slum and housing conditions across the world;

commit ourselves to:

1. **Implement** the universal principles for slum upgrading and prevention such as prohibiting unlawful evictions, empowering women and youth, making slum upgrading interventions affordable and accessible, ensuring public participation regardless of race, sex, religious affiliation, and socio-economic status, and promoting accountability and transparency in all programmes;
2. **Formulate, implement and promote** inclusive urban policies, legislation, and national housing strategies allowing for efficient institutional frameworks, mechanisms for decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, providing mixed land-uses and tenure types to enhance local development and sustainable financing for slum upgrading and prevention;
3. **Apply more systematically** urban planning methods including participatory processes adapted to the needs of incremental urbanization standards, compact, better integrated and connected urban development patterns; solid financial inter-jurisdictional and inter-sector coordination instruments facilitating access to adequate housing and basic services for all;
4. **Increase** allocation of financial and human resources for slum upgrading and prevention and establishing financing strategies that mobilize public subsidies and income generated by land regularization and reallocation processes to develop investment plans for infrastructure and services;
5. **Promote** housing policies integrating sustainable approaches for energy efficiency in housing and human settlements respecting the environment and using innovative techniques and materials;
6. **Establish or strengthen** national entities such as urban forums or habitat committees to facilitate multi-sectoral dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders in preparation for the Habitat III Conference and the new Global Housing Strategy (Resolution 23/16);
7. **Support** through the inter-governmental bodies of the United Nations the definition of a global goal of halving the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030, to be part of the overall formulation of the new Sustainable Development Goals and of the Habitat III Conference preparatory process;

8. **Define and reinforce** new national monitoring systems and national goals for halving, in each country, the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030, taking into account the experience gained so far in the implementation of MDG 7-D;
9. **Enhance** exchange of best practices in the framework of South-South cooperation, including regional and triangular cooperation and increasing our partnerships and cooperation with all stakeholders, including local authorities, non-State actors and other Habitat Agenda partners (Istanbul Declaration, Habitat II);
10. **Share** widely in cooperation with the Kingdom of Morocco and UN-Habitat the outcomes of the present conference and ensure adequate follow-up at the global, regional, national and local levels; particularly in the preparation of the 24th Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

Rabat, 28 November 2012

Signatures of Rabat Declaration

Republic of Angola, Republic of Argentina, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Burkina Faso, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Chad, Republic of China, Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros. Republic of Djibouti, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Mauritania, Kingdom of Morocco, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Republic of Niger, Republic of Peru, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Senegal, Republic of South, Africa Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Zambia.