



MINURVI

XXVI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES ON HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Buenos Aires, Argentina

June 21st, 22nd and 23rd 2017

DECLARATION OF BUENOS AIRES

The Ministers and High Authorities in Housing and Urban Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean, taking part in this assembly:

Considering:

1. That the Forum of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urban Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), established in 1992, is the main instance for political concertation, regional coordination and cooperation in the realms of housing, territorial, urban and habitat development.
2. That Latin America and the Caribbean is a highly urbanized, diverse and unequal region, thus representing an outstanding case, at the global level, regarding its potential in urban issues and economic, social environmental and territorial challenges concerning urbanization to achieve sustainable development, in harmony with nature.
3. That cities and human settlements are centers for opportunities and growth, although they are also spaces where inequality, socio-spatial segregation, poor living conditions, and the situation of social, environmental and economic vulnerability affecting the welfare of large portions of the population become apparent, which poses the need to improve life quality and contributing to urban and social integration of areas where those segments of the population are concentrated, prioritizing the urgency of attending marginal areas.
4. That cities are also a space for the creation of wealth, where economic activities profit from service availability and find markets, these economic activities being the support for improved living conditions for families in the territory.
5. That population displacement from rural areas to middle-sized cities and large urban centers, increase demands for public services which need to be addressed through national urban and territorial policies.
6. That Latin America and the Caribbean are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate changes, particularly with regard to phenomena such as hurricanes, floods, landslides, droughts and the

increase in medium sea level, among others, rendering important to adequately address mitigation and adaptation, emergency management and increasing resilience, and recognizing that the problems linked to climate change become specially apparent in Small Island Developing States and Central America.

7. That studies and international evidence gathered by UN-Habitat have allowed to record that cities and territories presenting high prosperity indexed usually count on a national institutional and public policy environment enabling synergies between different government levels and among cities.
8. That Habitat III Conference in Quito produced in 2016 the New Urban Agenda, which in turn was formally adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2016, and that this agenda provides a global framework for implementation that will facilitate action by countries and the report of progress and actions on that New Urban Agenda.
9. That implementation and adaptation of the New Urban Agenda and follow-up to Sustainable Development Goal 11 in the region require advancing synergies with other SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in a regional framework for monitoring, follow-up and periodic report of the progress towards their implementation, based on official statistics sources of UN Member States.
10. That the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sendai Framework for Disasters Risk Reduction 2015-2030 put forward fundamental issues related to territorial planning and urban development: the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change adverse effects, efficient use of energy and water, reduction of greenhouse gases emissions and the protection of population through reduction of vulnerability situations and risk of disasters.

We affirm,

1. The importance of including goals of equity and social justice in the strategies, policies and territorial, urban, housing and habitat instruments.
2. That cultural diversity is a core value in our region's identity and, in this regard, any policy oriented towards the integral improvement of habitat and housing must respect, preserve and include the participation of its indigenous and originary peoples, afrodescendants, traditional communities, minorities and other communities.
3. The importance that countries count on a national framework on legal, institutional and financial issues enabling their guidance of the urban, territorial and social development, in a participative manner, to improve existing habitat conditions for all the population, promoting links with sub-national and local governments and other stakeholders, to advance inclusive, secure, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.
4. In view of the our region's high quantitative and qualitative habitational deficit, the need for the provision of adequate, sustainable and well located housing, as well as the improvement of existing facilities, with infrastructure, equipment and services to ensure an integral urban

- development, recognizing the inseparable link between housing and urban development and furthering compact and resilient cities.
5. That programs for urban rehabilitation, together with heritage preservation, are suitable solutions to address the habitational deficit and contribute to universal access to adequate housing and to a “dignified habitat” including basic public services, community equipment and quality urban infrastructure and transport, is to be expected.
 6. That a balanced articulation between the productive matrix, urban development and environment, is one of the main challenges faced by our region.
 7. The need for national urban and sustainable urban mobility policies which include prioritizing significant investment in public transport, allowing to improve quality of life by reducing negative externalities, considering private transportation as a critical factor implying high levels of pollution, which affect quality of life and health of inhabitants.
 8. That political leaders and national authorities face issues affecting several segments of the population, due to precarious habitat resulting from lack of basic services, lack of adequate housing and low public-space quality, among others, which contributes to the exclusion of populations in vulnerable situations within the socio-economic fabric of the city.

Recognizing:

1. The constant support and cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the relevance of the Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up on the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. The constant support and cooperation of UN-Habitat Regional Office in the implementation of the activities of MINURVI.
3. The outstanding work of the countries that took part in the Executive Committee in 2016-2017, particularly Mexico, in charge of MINURVI's Technical Secretariat.
4. The warm hospitality of the authorities of Argentina, particularly the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing, as host of this General Assembly.
5. The excellent development of the General Assembly with the participation of 22 members, including most high authorities involved in housing and urban development and an outstanding presence of CARICOM States and members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Reinforcing the commitment of all members with MINURVI's performance.

We commit to:

1. Working towards the effective materialization of the right to the city, as defined in the Toluca's Declaration, and fostering the development of urban policies aimed at social inclusion, the

- development of opportunities and the integral development of their inhabitants, with a gender perspective, recognizing the central role played by national governments in sustainable urban development, territorial planning policy and housing.
2. Reaffirming the right of States not to be subject to the enforcement of unilateral economic, financial or commercial measures that prevent economic and social development particularly in the countries of our region
 3. Working towards the production of a Latin-American Urbanistic Agreement, supported UN law system, that will constitute the basis for the adaptation of national and sub-national laws and regulations in the region.
 4. Working with an emphasis in urban planning and the reduction of inequalities and poverty in all its dimensions. Strengthening the commitment to reverse the historical condition of inequality of our region.
 5. Contemplate the provision of services and the improvement of rural and middle-sized cities habitats in national policies
 6. Planning a sustainable development that respects natural environment, preserving cultural heritage and the well-being of all inhabitants.
 7. Continuing to incorporate territorial planning in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, through the development of joint prevention and mitigation strategies to the effects of disasters, reaffirming the importance of fulfilling and monitoring the Paris Agreement.
 8. Including the Disaster Risk Management approach in urban and territorial planning, aiming at reducing vulnerability factors and ensuring safe and resilient cities and human settlements.
 9. Working in coordination with sub-national and local governments in the development of multi-purpose surveys and territorial and territorial planning strategies, taking into account the urban and rural development and socio-cultural perspectives and local financing.
 10. Fostering the development and up-grade of urbanistic and urban planning instrument to increase resource mobilization for public investment, aiming at enhancing life quality of all citizens.
 11. Promoting the elaboration of housing public policies for the development of cities that take into account the differentiated needs according to age and gender and that are affordable, accessible, safe, resilient, well-connected and well-placed, and strengthening their socio-spatial integration.
 12. Strengthening dialog instances at the sub-regional level, considering the possibility to exchange experiences and best practices.
 13. Promoting the participation of MINURVI in high level events related to habitat and its network association with other international organizations.

14. Supporting the Urban Housing Practitioners' Hub, created as an integrated network of national and local governments, private sector, academia, civil society and multilateral agencies for the creation of a knowledge and practical experience platform related to issues of habitat in Latin America and the Caribbean.
15. Promoting articulation of sectorial policies and the development of national urban policies in line with the premises of the New Urban Agenda and the Action Framework for its Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this respect, MINURVI, with the support of UN-Habitat, ECALC and other allied international organizations, will promote and support those countries that decide to review their national urban policy or existing national public policy.
16. Considering the Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and its fundamental elements of urban development and its adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean through the Regional Action Plan, coordinated by CEPAL and UN-Habitat, as the road map for the implementation of the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.
17. Promoting the development of a Regional Urban Observatory and Contacting official statistics institutes of each country to verify the will of these institutions to cooperate in the consideration of urban and habitat issues and presenting their feedback in the framework of ECLAC's Conference of Cities next October. The purpose of this being establishing a working group in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, to be held next November.
18. Placing MINURVI, in the framework of its 26th anniversary, as the political regional forum in matters of human settlements, urban development and housing, as well as the regional dialogue platform on habitat at a global level. Affirming that heterogeneity and diversity in our region are one of our main strengths.

Commend the Executive Committee to:

- a. Developing a work plan for countries to share progress on their urban plans and policies, no later than 90 days after the adoption of this Declaration, which will be presented in the framework of ECLAC's Conference of Cities next October.
- b. Coordinating MINURVI's position in high level events on habitat and human settlements, in consultation with Members, and in the framework of agreements reached in the General Assembly.
- c. Promoting the dissemination among Members of all MINURVI's activities and generating strategies to continue fostering participation in the General Assemblies, sub-regional dialogs and different working bodies of MINURVI.
- d. Updating the virtual library of MINURVI with the knowledge gathered and generated at the General Assemblies and sub-regional meeting, as well as produced by Members.

- e. Convening an Executive Committee meeting no later than 60 days after the adoption of this Declaration.
- f. Appointing a coordinator of the sub-committee for the review of MINURVI Bylaws in order to continue working on the basis of the proposal put forward during the current Presidency.

Integrating the Executive Committee, until the XXVII General Assembly of MINURVI, with the following composition:

The South America sub-region will be integrated by Uruguay and Paraguay, the latter acting as focal point.

The Central America and Mexico sub-region will be integrated by Mexico and Guatemala, the latter acting as focal point.

The Caribbean sub-region will be integrated by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Cuba, the latter acting as focal point.

Countries appointed as focal points commit to working for the right and timely implementation of sub-regional meeting and to furthering participation of their sub-regions in MINURVI affairs related to the activities of the Executive Committee and the Technical Secretariat.

The Argentine Republic is appointed as Presidency.

The XXVII General Assembly of MINURVI will be held in 2018 in Argentina.

Buenos Aires, 23 June 2017.



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