



**21ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF MNISTERS AND HIGH LEVEL
AUTHORITIES OF HOUSING AND URBANIZATION OF LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN (MINURVI)**

**Mexico City, Mexico
August 20th, 21st, and 22nd 2012**

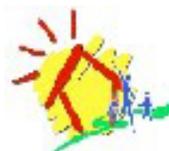
DECLARATION OF MEXICO

Considering:

1. That The General Assembly of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean Countries (MINURVI) is the main instance for the political concentration, coordination and regional cooperation on the issues of housing and urban and territorial sustainable development with the purpose of gradually solving the problems related to the habitat of inhabitants of the Region.
2. That cities are the result of the evolution of our society; the physical space in which persons can be developed while seeking access to services that are not available in rural areas.
3. That 80% of Latin American and Caribbean population live in cities.
4. That the total number of inhabitants in urban areas will be increased in the decades to come due to the natural growth of population, as well as continuous migration.
5. That the growth in urban areas lead to the consumption of natural, territorial, energy and material resources that generate common responsibilities; but is differentiated according to the capacity of each country.



6. That there is a growing demand for more efficient infrastructure and urban services.
7. That Climate Change and its impact on housing vulnerability makes it necessary to develop and diversify affordable and appropriate technologies for the production of social housing..
8. That the right to the city and housing must be reaffirmed and also solutions to problems that affect the Region such as poverty, deprivation, segregation, and irregularity must be found in order to overcome them through comprehensive habitat programs.
9. That the social approach in housing policies, especially for those living in poverty, must be strengthened in favour of building sustainable communities.
10. That various alternatives of social housing production are opportunities that provide access to appropriate housing.
11. That there must be a consciousness of the political and social nature of the topic of vacant or uninhabited housing so as to ensure their contribution to the reduction of the housing deficit.
12. That it is necessary to elaborate and implement standards, guidelines, and procedures that allow the countries to deal with the technical criteria related to quality and productivity in social housing production.
13. That it is difficult for certain countries to travel in order to comply with their work commitments; however this situation shall not imply their non-participation.



14. That it is necessary to carry on with the commitment of governments in achieving objectives 10 and 11 of goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, adopted in the General Assembly of The United Nations Summit of 2000.

15. That we acknowledge the Document, Report on the State of Cities in Latin American and the Caribbean provided by UN-HABITAT.

Recognizing:

1. The continuous contribution and collaboration of the The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the implementation of the agreements of MINURVI through the support given for the development of thematic documents as well as through the execution of seminars and training courses.
2. The support given by the Regional Office of The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) to tasks of MINURVI.
3. The outstanding work of countries that were members of the Executive Committee period 2011-2012, particularly the work of Argentina in charge of the Technical Secretary of MINURVI.
4. The hospitality of the Mexican authorities, especially the excellent organization of the meeting by Mexico's National Housing Commission and its role as host in this Assembly Meeting.

The Ministers and High Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries, participating in this General Assembly



We agree to:

- 1- Foster sustainable development of human settlements.
- 2- Develop organized, sustainable, and friendly cities that allow for the development of its citizens.
- 3- Foster social, cultural, economic and personal development of inhabitants.
- 4- Reduce the environmental impact of cities in an integrated manner through territorial ordinances, beginning with housing as a unit, the general construction process, and the urban and infrastructural services.
- 5- Foster the design construction and operation of dignified and accessible housing as a sustainable manner linking it to the urban context by way of access to services and infrastructure that will encourage the building and restoration of social relationships.
- 6- Address the housing demand using multiple approaches.
- 7- Take into account the risk mitigation criteria of natural disasters in the development of human settlements.
- 8- Generate and maintain harmonious and sustainable cities that foster the sense of belonging and social inclusion.
- 9- Promote the inclusion of observers from organization related to the urban and housing sector in general and housing financing in particular.
- 10- Strengthen the understanding of the characteristics of vacant dwellings, as they relate to the cost, location and dimension in order to facilitate the formulation of sustainable strategies.
- 11- Incorporate in housing policies, strategies that generate social integration and environmental stewardship, such as co-operatives and other forms of social housing production.



The commitments will be fulfilled through:

1. Concerted, collaborative, and participative strategies, differentiated according to the capacity of the country.
2. The establishment of homogenous guidelines and indicators that allow for the comparison of the performance of the cities in order to optimize the regional strategies and support their strengthening through cooperation.
3. The linking of housing policies and territorial ordinances in an integrated manner that incorporates the complexity of the territory as well as the economic, social and environmental sustainability.
4. The preparation of a strong and coherent framework that relates to management, habitability, durability and security, as well as materials and other elements of the construction process; that promotes the development of the local industry for clean technologies, reduces water and electricity consumption and makes good use of renewable energy in housing and the urban environment.
5. Professional training of all the parties involved in the housing process and its environment; strengthening the capacities in all sectors: private, public and social.
6. A common platform of knowledge and best practices that promote social participation and diffusion of programmes.
7. Develop regional strategies that result in specific and adequate applications to the needs of the Locale.



8. The discussion and analysis of best practices on urban planning, housing development and support and infrastructural systems within cities.
9. Develop instruments and public policy initiatives that support sustainable housing development.
10. The development of specific studies on vacant dwellings.

We agree to:

1. Prior to the realization of the VI World Urban Forum to be held the city of Naples; request of Ministers of Housing and Urbanization of MINURVI Member Countries that will attend to share the commitments and agreements of MINURVI.
2. Approve the amendments to the regulation of MINURVI.
3. Entrust the MINURVI executive committee with the following tasks:
 - a) Propel the formation of a working group on the management and prevention of natural disasters. “Chile has agreed to coordinate this group”.
 - b) Continue with the working group on “Quality and productivity of the habitat”, incorporating the approach to “sustainable neighborhood”. The reference countries are Argentina, with respect to the training of the labour force; Brazil- materials; Chile- sustainability of constructive systems; and Uruguay- sustainable neighbourhoods.
 - c) Continue with the working group on housing deficit with the objective of reaching consensus on a comparable methodology. Argentina will coordinate this group.



- d) Continue with the working group on Social and Rental Housing. Jamaica and Barbados will coordinate this group.
- e) Urge the countries to implement technologies that will allow the realization of virtual video conferences for future working group meetings that are offsite.

4.- To establish the Executive Committee with the following composition until the XXII MINURVI ASSEMBLY:

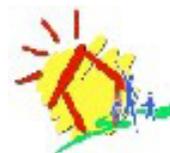
- a) The Central America and Mexico sub region will be represented by Costa Rica and Mexico and the latter will act as focal point for the sub region.
- b) The Caribbean sub region will be represented by Cuba and Jamaica and the latter will act as focal point for the sub region.
- c) The South America sub region will be represented by Chile and Uruguay and the latter will act as focal point for the sub region.

The countries designated as focal points agree to work to increase the participation of the respective sub regions in activities of the Technical Secretariat.

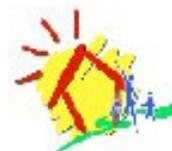
5.- Designate as General Secretariat of MINURVI, Brazil.

6.- To hold the XXII MINURVI in October 2013 in Panama, host city for the next Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State and Government.

Mexico City, Mexico, August 22nd, 2012.



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<p>Ines da Silva Magalhães Secretaria Nacional de Habitación Ministerio de las Ciudades BRASIL</p>	<p>Pablo Cristián Sepúlveda Moreno Jefe de la División Jurídica del Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo CHILE</p>
<p>Erick Mata Abdelnour Representante del Ministerio de Vivienda y Asentamientos Humanos COSTA RICA</p>	<p>Evidio Gonzalez Vicepresidente primero. Ministerio de Construcción CUBA</p>
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