

XXVIII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES ON
HOUSING AND URBANISM FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

San Jose, Costa Rica
October 21st and 22nd, 2019

Declaration of San Jose

The Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered at the XXVIII General Assembly,

Considering that:

1. The forum of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), established in 1992, is an organization of coordination and intergovernmental cooperation that promotes the sustainable development of human settlements.
2. The forum of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirms its continued commitment to human rights and the international system, in order to fulfill the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, and the global commitments on climate change and disaster risk reduction.
3. The ubiquity of unplanned urban growth prevailing in Latin America and the Caribbean over the decades, is a social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political impediment, impinging on the quality of life, public health, and the compliance of human rights of millions of inhabitants in the region, mainly those dwelling in informal settlements.

4. Human settlements, cities, and communities offer opportunities for sustainable urbanization, development and human security, promoting access to public services, mobility, poverty reduction, gender equality, and the safeguard of a healthy environment for all the inhabitants of the region, observing the continuity between the urban and rural spaces.

5. The first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), held from 27 to 31 May 2019 in Nairobi, highlights the importance of capitalizing on data, knowledge, and smart technologies, as resources to face the challenges towards social inclusion and urban sustainability, which concurs with the proposal of a Digital Platform for the continuous monitoring of the New Urban Agenda, as it was agreed at the XXVII General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean held in Buenos Aires in 2018.

6. The forum of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean recognizes the large-scale human migration triggered by labor, political, and climatic factors, as it is occurring today in Latin America and the Caribbean; observing the principle of international solidarity, this forum champions coordinated regional action to mobilize and invest resources on social housing for people in dire need, as well as immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, in those countries that consider it so.

7. The pressing need for reducing pollution and solid waste, with regard to the development of housing and human settlements, makes it necessary to implement a model of sustainable production and consumption, by means of which pave the way to the circular economy and resilient building designs to mitigate natural events.

8. Currently, the planning and financing of the cities are as consequential as climate change, poverty, and human development; therefore, the region urges access to preferential credits, more substantial foreign aid, and the engagement of multilateral organizations, as

well as the promotion of dynamic public-private partnerships, to bolster the compliance of the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other international commitments.

Recognizing:

1. The relevance of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. The constant contribution and collaboration of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Regional Office of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the activities revolving around the General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in the evaluation of the urban public policies of the countries of the region.
3. The financial and technical support of the Inter-American Development Bank for the XXVIII General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean, along with its contribution to the development of knowledge and the provision of regional public assets.
4. The contribution of the network of non-governmental organizations formed by Urban Housing Practitioners Hub (UHPH) in promoting the Platform of Cities and knowledge management.
5. The effort of the authorities of Costa Rica, mainly the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements and its team of collaborators, for the organization of the XXVIII General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. The active participation from the governments and organizations invited at the XXVIII General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean.

We have agreed upon the following actions:

1. To advance the enforcement and compliance of human rights, action for climatic change, and disaster risk reduction in the processes of urban planning, the development of human settlements, cities, and inclusive public space, and housing, mainly for those people living in conditions of insecurity, risk, and social exclusion.
2. To facilitate the fulfillment, in all the cities and rural communities, of gender equality, access to clean water and sanitation, affordable and no-polluting energy, efficient mobility and affordable and accessible public transport, responsible practices of production and consumption, the safeguard of biodiversity and the enjoyment of a healthy environment, permitting its sustainability.
3. To ensure that all human settlements are sustainable, resilient, and secure for all the people, free of violent conflicts and with low risk of natural disasters, in order to provide development, social protection, and human security to its inhabitants.
4. To persist in vigorously and actively promoting the development and future use of the Platform of Cities to monitor the compliance of the New Urban Agenda, alongside with similar initiatives, in accordance with the terms of the action plan released and agreed in San Jose, Costa Rica, at the XXVIII General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. To call the attention of financial organizations and international cooperation agencies in order to jointly seek technical and economic resources to address the need for adequate

housing to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, mainly for those dwelling in informal settlements, in those countries that consider it so.

6. To promote, within every country with representation at the forum of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean, the sustainable building of adequate housing in the light of the principles of the circular economy.

7. To elaborate an action plan and a proposal of intents and objectives for a prospective Declaration of Principles of the Urban Agreement of Latin America and the Caribbean, as a basis for public policy formulation and national legislation across the region.

8. To keep pursuing the access to cities for everyone, in some countries known as the “Right to the City,” through national public policies, in such a way that the human right to equally enjoy the benefits of the city can be fulfilled for everyone, regardless the age and including those people with disabilities, in harmony with the natural and cultural environment, as well as promoting social integration.

9. To facilitate the use of instruments for systematic analysis in the housing sector to inform current policies and programs, for instance, the application of diagnostics about the value chain in the housing sector.

10. To promote innovations in the supply and demand, based on the trajectory of life of people, to promote inclusion and, at the same time, mirror the constant fluctuations that the region experiences, such as demographic changes and migration flows.

11. To strengthen cooperation through diverse initiatives, such as Social Housing Laboratories (LAVs) forums, and exchange of practices, libraries, platforms.

12. To strengthen the coordination between national and local governments, for the benefit of the efficient management of the land, the sustainability of urban development, the generation of new resources for public investment through instruments of land management, climate action, the promotion of inclusive human settlements, mobility, and adequate housing, in harmony with the natural and cultural surroundings.

13. To create opportunities based on technology advancements that are rapidly evolving to achieve higher efficiency and efficacy, stimulating innovations in the field of urban planning, using big data, digital maps, and machine learning; and in the construction industry, using new material, techniques, and systems like Building Information Modeling (BIM).

We delegate to the Executive Committee the following tasks:

1. To further the design and implementation of the action plan released and agreed at the XXVIII General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean held in San Jose in 2019, concerning the Digital Platform for the continuous monitoring of the New Urban Agenda.

2. To design and recommend a strategy in order to jointly seek technical and economic resources from financial organizations and international cooperation agencies, with the objective of addressing the need for housing to the pressing problems of the region.

3. To elaborate an action plan and a proposal of intents and objectives for a prospective Declaration of Principles of the Urban Agreement of Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. To take action aimed at strengthening the General Assembly in its role in accordance with Article 10 of the statute, with emphasis on subsections (a) and (g).

5. To prepare a work plan, within a period not exceeding 60 days since the adoption of this Declaration, comprising an array of activities such as exchanges, on-site or online workshops, either, the connection of the organization of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean with other regions, fostering the articulation with entities, encouraging the participation in specialized forums, and arranging technical meetings between the countries of each sub-region.

6. To delegate in the Presidency, in coordination with the Executive Committee, the analysis of the evaluation of a technical secretary, to be discussed at the XXIX General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. To hold a meeting of the Executive Committee within a period not exceeding 60 days after the adoption of this Declaration.

Finally, we agree that, until the celebration of the XXIX General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean, the Executive Committee will have the following composition:

- The sub-region of South America will include the next countries: Chile and Uruguay.
- The sub-region of Central America and Mexico will include the next countries: Mexico and Honduras.
- The sub-region of the Caribbean will include the next countries: Barbados and Cuba.
- The Vice-President of the organization of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean will be: Costa Rica
- The President of the organization of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean will be: Colombia
- The XXIX General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urbanism from Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in 2020 in Colombia.

Signed in San Jose, Costa Rica, on the twenty second of October in the year two thousand and nineteen.

Irene Campos
Costa Rica

Jonathan Malagón
Colombia

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El Salvador

Edna Vega
México

Patricia Giménez
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Hon. Charles Mc. D. Griffith
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