

Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development

**Agenda papers for the
Second Meeting of the
Bureau of APMCHUD**

Amman, Jordan

October 27-28, 2007

Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development

Dates: October 27-28, 2007

Venue: Amman, Jordan

Proposed Agenda Items

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007.

Item No. 2: Action taken report on the decisions of the Bureau of APMCHUD in its First meeting.

Item No. 3: Establishment of the Secretariat for the Bureau of APMCHD and action plan for the same

Item No. 4: Any other items with the permission of the Chair.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007.

A copy of the Minutes of the First Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007 is placed.

The Bureau may consider the Minutes for ratification.

**Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Bureau of Asia Pacific Ministers
Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)**

Venue : Patterson Suite, Hotel Sarova Stanley, Nairobi
Time and Date : 2000 hrs on 15th April, 2007

Participants:

H.E Kumari Selja, Chairperson, Bureau of APMCHUD **In Chair**
and Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation,
Republic of India

H.E. Mohammad Saeidi Kia
Minister of Housing & Urban Development,
Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Ms. Fu Wenjuan
Vice Minister, Ministry of Construction.
Peoples Republic of China

H.E Eng. Shehadah Abdallah Abu Hdaib
Director General
Housing and Urban Development Corporation, Amman
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Other Participants:

Peoples Republic of China

Mr He Xinghua
Director General of Department of Informal Relations

Mr. Li Zhe
Director of Commercial Division

Mr. Gao Yanwei
Deputy Representative of Chinese Mission to UN-Habitat at Nairobi

Islamic Republic of Iran:

H.E. Manouchehr Khajeh dalui
Deputy Minister of Housing & Urban Development

H.E. Ra'eesi
Ambassador of Iran to Kenya at Nairobi
Mr Sadegh Sadeghpur
Ministry of Housing.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Mr. C. Choudhury
Honorary Council of the Republic of Jordan
Nairobi, Kenya

Eng. Suleiman Salem AL HASANAT
Housing & Urban Development Corporation
Senior Director of Housing Policy

Republic of India

H.E. Mr P S Randhawa
High Commissioner of India to Kenya and
Permanent Mission of India to the UN-HABITAT

Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh
Joint Secretary (Housing) and
Chief Coordinator of Interim Secretariat of the
Bureau of APMCHUD

Dr. Ketan Shukla
Deputy High Commissioner of India to Kenya and
Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN-HABITAT

Mr. Manoj Aggarwal
PS to Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

Mr. Ravinder Kumar CELLY
Executive Director
Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC)

Mr. T. PRABAKARAN
Director (Finance), Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)

Dr P.Jayapal
Executive Director (Urban and Regional Planning)
Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) and
Coordinator of Interim Secretariat of the
Bureau of APMCHUD

Mr Rajesh Goel
Deputy Chief (Corporate Planning)
Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) and
Coordinator of Interim Secretariat of the
Bureau of APMCHUD

Welcoming the Members of the Bureau, Mr Sunil Kumar Singh, Chief Coordinator of the Bureau Secretariat and Joint Secretary (Housing), Government of India indicated that the Delhi Declaration adopted at New Delhi after the 1st Asia Pacific Conference of the Ministerial meeting on Housing and Human Settlements held during 13-16th December, 2006 had decided that the Bureau would hold its first meeting within 4 months. Accordingly, the 1st meeting of the Bureau was initially scheduled for 19-20th March, 2007 at New Delhi. However, on the request of some of the Members, the meeting was rescheduled to be held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007 preceding the Governing Council meeting of the UN-Habitat at Nairobi from 16-20th April, 2007.

Extending a warm welcome to the Members and other participants to the 1st Meeting of the Bureau of APMCHUD, Kumari Selja, Chairperson of the Bureau indicated that some of the Member countries could not participate possibly in view of them not being Members of the Governing Council of the UN-Habitat.

The agenda items were taken up itemwise.

Agenda Item 1. Setting up of an Interim Secretariat of the Bureau of
APMCHUD

The Chairperson, indicated that as part of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation of Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific and the Delhi Declaration, the APMCHUD had envisioned establishment of an Interim Secretariat in India as soon as possible. The Chairperson further indicated that in accordance with the same, an Interim Secretariat of the Bureau has been set up at the premises of Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The Interim Secretariat was formally inaugurated on 6th April, 2007 with

the participation of the Mission representatives of the Bureau Member Countries in New Delhi. The Joint Secretary (Housing), Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India has been designated as the Chief Co-ordinator of the Interim Secretariat by the Chairperson of the Bureau. The activities of the Interim Secretariat are currently being looked after by two senior executives of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) at New Delhi.

The Bureau noted the action taken on the subject. It was decided that the details of the Interim Secretariat be conveyed to all the Members of the APMCHUD.

Agenda Item 2. Identification of modalities of establishing the Secretariat and other organs

Briefing the members on the Item, the Chairperson indicated that the Delhi Declaration had desired the Bureau should finalize the modalities of establishment of the Secretariat and other organs, which may become an Appendix to the Delhi Declaration. The Chairperson indicated the basic issues to be decided relate to the location of the Permanent Secretariat of the APMCHUD, identification of Activities – Action Plan of the Secretariat, staffing of the Secretariat, logistic Support for the Secretariat, and the time frame for operationalisation of the Secretariat.

In this regard, the Member from Iran stressed the need for setting up of a permanent Secretariat first, so that the other related activities are taken up in an organised manner. In this regard, the Member proposed that the Permanent Secretariat be set up at New Delhi, India. Agreeing with the proposal made by Iran, the Member from Jordan indicated that the related aspects could be taken in detail in the forthcoming meetings. The Member from China indicated that they would like to provide their views shortly, and however, they would definitely like to go along with the views of the Other Bureau Members in this regard.

It was accordingly decided that the related aspects as outlined above on the activities of Permanent Secretariat etc would be considered in the forthcoming meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Soliciting the Asia Pacific Countries and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to assist the Bureau in its efforts to establish the Secretariat

The Chairperson briefed the members that the Delhi Declaration of the APMCHUD, as part of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation of Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific, vide clause 18 envisaged requesting the Asia-Pacific Countries and the Executive Director of UN-

HABITAT to assist the Bureau in its efforts to establish the Secretariat. Accordingly, the Chairperson further indicated that such support sought would primarily cover the technical, organisational and financial contributions as may become necessary, for effective functioning of the Secretariat.

The Chairperson also observed that the actual and specific assistance required from Member countries and the UN-HABITAT would become available from the outcome of deliberations/decisions of the Bureau on aspects relating to identification of Activities – Action Plan of the Secretariat, staffing of the Secretariat, logistic Support for the Secretariat, and the time frame for operationalisation of the Secretariat, etc at this stage sought authorisation from the Bureau to make/table a statement in the Governing Council meeting of UN-HABITAT on establishment of APMCHUD and soliciting active participation and assistance from UN-HABITAT. The proposed Statement from the Chairperson was also placed for consideration of the Bureau Members.

The Bureau Members suggested that as the Statement has been placed on the table, they would take a day-or-two to peruse and give their views/comments if any. It was agreed that comments if any would be given to the Chief Coordinator and would be suitably incorporated and circulated there after.

Agenda Item 4: Soliciting the co-operating partners to support APMCHUD efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in the Delhi Declaration of APMCHUD.

The Chairperson while introducing the item pointed out that the Delhi Declaration of the APMCHUD, as part of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation of Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific, vide clause 19 requested the Bureau to call upon the co-operating partners, including ASEAN, SAARC, Pacific Islands Forum, ECO, other relevant UN agencies, the Asian Development Bank, and donors, to support APMCHUD efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in the Delhi Declaration of APMCHUD.

During the discussions it was noted by the members that the specific support to be sought would depend on the finalisation of the action plan, which is to be taken up in the subsequent meetings of the Bureau. And accordingly it was decided by the Bureau that the Chairperson may address an appropriate communication to keep the referred Institutions/agencies and other related organisations informed in regard to the formation of the APMCHUD, its Bureau and Secretariat enclosing therewith a copy of the Delhi Declaration.

Agenda Item 5. Establishment of Coordinating Committees for the housing and urban development issues in Asia-Pacific Countries to mainstream the issues of the sector and giving a high prominence to the challenges of sustainable urbanization

The Chairperson requested the Members to recall the decision of APMCHUD as outlined in the Delhi Declaration, to request the Asia-Pacific countries to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in respective countries by establishing Co-ordinating Committees for the sector, and giving a high prominence to the challenges of sustainable urbanisation.

The Chairperson further indicated that the establishment of the Coordinating Committees is very necessary in view of the current global shelter challenge. In this regard, the Member from China indicated that they already have a Habitat Committee to look into similar issues in focus, and as such they propose to use the same mechanism for this purpose. After deliberations on the issue it was decided by the Bureau that while each member country may decide on the appropriate mechanism and composition of the Co-ordination Committee, it may be advisable to constitute the same with the Minister concerned as the Chair. The Bureau further authorised the Chairperson to address an appropriate communication to all the Member Countries of APMCHUD in this regard.

Agenda Item 6. Any other Item which members may like to take up.

The Bureau unanimously decided that the next meeting of the Bureau be held at New Delhi and the subsequent meetings could be in other countries as may be agreed.

While concluding the meeting, the Chairperson thanked the Members and other participants for their participation and contribution in the meeting.

The Chief Coordinator proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairperson on behalf of the Members.

The meeting was followed by dinner.

Item No. 2: Action taken report on the decisions of the Bureau of APMCHUD in its First meeting held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007.

Agenda Item	Decision(s) Taken	Action Taken
1. Setting up of an Interim Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD	The Bureau desired that the details of the Interim Secretariat already set up be conveyed to all the Members of the APMCHUD.	Communication issued with the details. Copy enclosed.
2. Identification of modalities of establishing the Secretariat and other organs.	The details on the activities, etc of the Permanent Secretariat be considered in the forthcoming Meeting.	A proposal on the subject has been prepared for discussion in the Second Meeting of the Bureau.
3. Soliciting the Asia Pacific Countries and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to assist the Bureau in its efforts to establish the Secretariat	The Statement by the Chairperson of the Bureau of APMCHUD on establishment of APMCHUD and soliciting active participation and assistance from UN-Habitat, to be tabled in the 21 st Governing Council Meeting of the UN-HABITAT after receipt of comments, if any, from the Bureau Members.	The Statement was Tabled in the 21 st Governing Council Meeting of the UN-HABITAT on 19 th April, 2007.
4. Soliciting the co-operating partners to support APMCHUD efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in the Delhi Declaration of APMCHUD	The Bureau decided that the Chairperson may address an appropriate communication to keep the referred Institutions/agencies and other related organizations informed in regard to the formation of the APMCHUD, its Bureau and Secretariat enclosing therewith a copy of the Delhi Declaration.	A communication as referred has been sent. Copy enclosed.
5. Establishment of Coordinating Committees for the housing and urban development issues in Asia-Pacific Countries to mainstream the issues of the sector and giving a high prominence to the challenges of sustainable urbanization	In regard to constitution of the Coordinating Committees in each of the Member Countries of the APMCHUD, the Bureau decided that while each Member country may decide on the appropriate mechanism and composition of the Co-ordination Committee, it may be advisable to constitute the same with the Minister concerned as the Chair. The Bureau further authorized the Chairperson to address an appropriate communication to all the Member Countries of APMCHUD in this regard.	A communication as referred has been sent to all the Member Countries.
6. Any other Item which members may like to take up.	The next meeting of the Bureau (2 nd) be held at New Delhi and the subsequent meetings could be in other countries as may be agreed.	The 2 nd Meeting of the Bureau is being held at Jordan.

The Bureau may like to note the actions taken and also provide suggestions/comments, if any.

D.O.No. I-21015/2/2007.H
17th September, 2007

Subject: First Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference of the Bureau of Asia Pacific Ministers' on Housing and Urban Development – follow up action regarding.

Excellency,

The First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference held in New Delhi during 13-16th December 2006, pronounced the Delhi Declaration on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) and setting up of an Interim Secretariat with India as the Chair. A copy of the 'Enhanced Framework on Implementation of Sustainable urbanization in Asia-Pacific' and the 'Delhi Declaration on the Establishment of APMCHUD' are enclosed for your ready reference.

One of the major decisions by APMCHUD was to set up a Secretariat of the Bureau at the earliest. In this regard, you would be happy to know that an Interim Secretariat of the Bureau has been set up in New Delhi and is functional with effect from 6th April, 2007. Details of the Interim Secretariat are as under:

Interim Secretariat
Bureau of APMCHUD
HUDCO Bhawan, 4th Floor
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)
India Habitat centre, Lodhi Road
New Delhi 110 003, India
e-mail ID: apmchud.bureau@gmail.com

The activities of the Interim Secretariat are being coordinated by the Chief Coordinator Mr S.K.Singh, Joint Secretary (Housing), Ministry of Housing and urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India (Telephone No: 0091-11-23061665/Fax: 0091-11-23061497; e-mail: jshupa@gmail.com).

I am also happy to inform you that the 1st meeting of the Bureau of the APMCHUD was held on 15th April, 2007 at Nairobi, just prior to the 21st Governing Council meeting of the UN-HABITAT from 16th to 20th April, 2007. The Bureau is seized of the issue of establishment of the Permanent Secretariat as soon as possible and is in the process of finalizing the modalities including the financial implications.

Another important issue extensively deliberated by the Bureau in its 1st meeting, pertained to the decision of the APMCHUD, as outlined in the Delhi Declaration, to request the Asia-Pacific countries to establish a coordinating Committee for the sector to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in respective countries for giving a high prominence to the shelter challenges. The Bureau decided to urge the all the Member countries to immediately take action in this regard by constituting an appropriate coordinating Committee for the above purpose. The Bureau was also of the opinion that while each member country may decide on the appropriate mechanism and composition of the Coordination Committee, it may be advisable to constitute the same with the Ministers' concerned as the Chairperson. I am sure that you are already in the process of formalizing this mechanism and I would be happy to receive indication on the latest development in this regard.

I would keep you posted on further developments and I am sure with significant collaboration and cooperation among us, a substantial progress could be achieved in improving the human settlements conditions in the Asia-Pacific region. I look forward to receive your continued significant positive cooperation, as you have always been, towards promoting sustainable human settlements in our Asia-Pacific Region.

With best regards

Yours sincerely

(Kumari Selja)
Chairperson, APMCHUD

To

All the Hon'ble Members of APMCHUD

D.O.No. I-21015/2/2007.H
17th September, 2007

Subject: Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development – regarding.

Excellency,

The countries in the Asia-Pacific Region at large face common and similar challenges in their goal of achieving a better quality of life for the citizens. In their effort towards achieving sustainable, holistic and inclusive human settlements development, the Asia-Pacific Region countries have recognized the fact that a synergic approach would go a long way in addressing these challenges of housing and urban development sector more comprehensively.

In accordance with the same, a major collaborative event, namely the First Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing & Urban Development was held in New Delhi during 13-16th December 2006. The Conference pronounced the Delhi Declaration on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) and also evolved an 'Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization in Asia-Pacific'. Among the major decisions of the Declaration is to put in place an operational mechanism for moving ahead in the form of setting up of a Bureau of the APMCHUD and also establishment of a Permanent Secretariat of the Bureau. A copy of the 'Delhi Declaration on the Establishment of APMCHUD' and also the 'Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization in Asia-Pacific' are enclosed for your perusal.

The First Bureau of the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) established during the Conference in December 2006 has the following members represented by the Ministers:

- South Asia, represented by Republic of India as Chair of the Bureau, and Islamic Republic of Iran,
- South East Asia: represented by Malaysia, and also as the Rapporteur;
- East Asia: represented by Peoples Republic of China;
- North and Central Asia: represented by Azerbaijan;
- Western Asia: represented by Jordan
- Pacific and Oceania: represented by Papua New-Guinea.

In furtherance of the decisions of the APMCHUD and its Bureau, an Interim Secretariat of the Bureau has been set up in New Delhi and is functional with effect from 6th April, 2007. Details of the Interim Secretariat are as under:

Interim Secretariat
Bureau of APMCHUD
HUDCO Bhawan, 5th Floor
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road
New Delhi 110 003, India
e-mail ID: apmchud.bureau@gmail.com

The activities of the Interim Secretariat are being coordinated by the Chief Coordinator Mr S.K.Singh, Joint Secretary (Housing), Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India (Telephone No: 0091-11-23061665/Fax: 0091-11-23061497; e-mail: jshupa@gmail.com).

The Bureau of the APMCHUD also held its 1st meeting on 15th April, 2007 at Nairobi, just prior to the 21st Governing Council meeting of the UN-HABITAT from 16th to 20th April, 2007. The Bureau is seized of the issue of establishment of its Permanent Secretariat as soon as possible and also finalization of an action plan for further activities including the modalities and financial implications. The Member countries are already pursuing its proposal to establish a coordinating Committee for the sector to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in respective countries for giving a high prominence to the shelter challenges.

You would agree that such a major initiative, to progress well, would need, in addition to concerted efforts, a significant cooperation from the multifarious International/Regional Institutions/Programmes. We, in the APMCHUD look forward to receive your guidance, cooperation and collaboration in promoting the various activities and initiatives of APMCHUD. I am sure with significant collaboration and cooperation from you and your Institution, a substantial progress could be made in improving the human settlements conditions in the Asia-Pacific region.

I look forward to receive your cooperation towards promoting sustainable human settlements in our Asia-Pacific Region.

With best regards

Yours sincerely

(Kumari Selja)
Chairperson, APMCHUD

To

As per enclosed list.

Institutions to which the Chairperson, APMCHUD has addressed communication informing on establishment of APMCHUD and also soliciting their support

Ms. Nemat Shafik
Director General for Regional Programmes
Department for International Development (DFID)
1 Palace Street,
London SW1E 5HE

Mr. Uwe Ohis
Managing Director
Regional Department 1 (Asia)
KfW Bankengruppe
Palmengartenstrasse 5-9
60325 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Mr. Achim Steiner
Executive Director
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30552, 00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Mr. Kemal Derviş,
Administrator
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza,
New York, NY 10017 USA

Ms. Noeleen Heyzer
Executive Secretary
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
The United Nations Building
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200 Thailand

Mr Haruhiko Kuroda
President
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550
P.O. Box 789
0980 Manila,
Philippines

Ambassador Khurshid Anwar
Secretary General
Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
No. 1, Golobu Alley, Kamranieh,
P.O. Box 14155- 6176,
Tehran-Iran.

MR GREG URWIN
Secretary General
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Private Mail Bag, Suva,
Fiji Islands

H.E. Mr. Chenkyab Dorji
Secretary General of SAARC
SAARC Secretariat,
PO Box 4222, Tridevi Marg,
Kathmandu, Nepal.

H.E. ONG KENG YONG
The Secretary-General
The ASEAN Secretariat
70A, Jalan Sisingamangaraja
Jakarta 12110
Indonesia

Item No. 3: Establishment of the Secretariat for the Bureau of APMCHUD and action plan for the same

A draft proposal for establishment the Secretariat of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing & Urban Development (APMCHUD) is placed. It covers the mandatory framework, vision & mission, roles, structure, action plan, and initial support for the functioning of the Secretariat. The time frame for various activities would have to be decided based on consideration and approval of the overall framework outlined.

The Bureau may consider the proposal.

ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON
HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (APMCHUD)

Proposal for Establishment of Secretariat
(at New Delhi)

Draft Paper for Discussion

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- 1. The Mandatory Framework of APMCHUD**
- 2. Vision & Mission**
- 3. Executive Secretariat**
 - a. Structure of the Secretariat**
 - b. Action Plan**
 - c. Sources of Finance**

CONCEPT NOTE ON
Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the
Bureau of APMCHUD

1. The Mandatory Framework of APMCHUD:

- a. Encourage and promote the strengthening of good urban governance in Asia Pacific and serve as a platform for advocacy of inclusive urban governance;
- b. Enhance role of gender in local government management for the development process, to be achieved by providing bigger role for women in local governance, particularly in areas related to slum eradication programmes;
- c. Champion and support innovative housing, urban development and land management practices in Asia-Pacific;
- d. Promote development of appropriate housing and low-cost construction technology for rural and urban housing;
- e. Facilitate South-South and international exchanges of expertise, research, experience and best practices in human settlements among private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in the region;
- f. Develop a better understanding of urban land dynamics that can lead to improved land tenure and to the growth of urban land markets in Asia-Pacific;
- g. Provide and promote a supportive environment for informal sector activities, including street vending, within national regulatory framework;
- h. Support relief and rehabilitation of shelter and human settlements development in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- i. Urge development partners and multi-lateral agencies to assist Asia Pacific countries on financing housing and urban infrastructure development;
- j. Promote capacity building efforts and encourage strong ties between research institutions to understand better the economic, legal and financial importance of housing urban development and urban land in Asia-Pacific;
- k. Encourage the collection and sharing of data and information that can improve the planning and management of urban development;
- l. Promote the institutionalization of a culture for urban planning including the preparation of urban strategic plans at both national and local authority level;

- m. Encourage the mobilization of domestic financial resources for housing and urban development and promote the necessary partnerships for attainment of this objective;
- n. Mainstream urban and other issues dealing with human settlements in the macro-economic frameworks and national budgets of Asia-Pacific governments;
- o. Provide a focal point to link relevant aspects of regional strategic initiatives as well as international processes and undertakings consistent with the agenda for sustainable urbanization;
- p. Encourage partnerships with private sector for shelter , urban infrastructure and services ;
- q. Undertake all other functions that will lead to the realization of the goals of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Housing and Human Settlements in Asia-Pacific adopted by this Conference;
- r. Explore possibilities of establishing a regional fund for housing finance for the poor;
- s. Encourage fast-track implementation of water and sanitation programmes to achieve the MDG targets;
- t. Promote broad-based participation, taking into account the issues related to youth, women, disabled, and vulnerable groups;
- u. Promote and encourage policies and programmes that are people centric and community based;
- v. Promote a sense of urban citizenship through fostering civic responsibilities.
- w. Address the negative impact of natural disasters and conflicts and the importance of social peace and harmony on the living conditions in towns and cities; and
- x. Promote integrated and sustainable rural and urban development to address the problems of urbanization

2. Vision and Mission

In order to make these Mandatory Framework operational, the Vision and Mission may be as follows:

1) VISION:

Promoting Sustainable Development of Human Settlements in Asia Pacific Region.

2) MISSION:

Global Knowledge hub and facilitator of human settlement development.

3. Executive Secretariat

To implement the Vision, Mission and the mandate outlined in the Enhanced Framework and Delhi Declaration, an Executive Secretariat needs to be set-up.

The Executive Secretariat shall be responsible for:

1. Providing technical advice to the Conference, Bureau and member countries
2. Knowledge and documentation centre of APMCHUD
3. Carrying out technical administrative functions of APMCHUD & Bureau
4. Developing systems and processes for efficient working of APMCHUD
5. Representing, & signing official documentation as mandated
6. Developing a programme and campaigns for APMCHUD
7. Developing and Building Capacity for APMCHUD
8. Preparing background documents for members of Bureau
9. Maintaining a relationships with Governments, multilateral institutions, other support structure
10. Maintaining database on the areas of work of APMCHUD
11. Facilitating Technical assistance to member countries
12. Planning and arranging country or regional visits
13. Recruiting and sourcing expert services on urban development (p).

To achieve this, following need to be set up and the structure of the Secretariat will be as follows:

I) *STRUCTURE OF SECRETARIAT*

a) **Head of Secretariat**

Head of the secretariat will be required to:

1. Supervise personnel, strategic and operational planning, the coordination of activities and the implementation of the operational plans of APMCHUD.
2. Liaise with Governments and multilateral organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizational.
3. Develop & facilitate implementation of the APMCHUD programme of action.
4. Oversee and control budget expenditures and outputs
5. Facilitate, arrange and coordinate meetings of the APMCHUD/Bureau and keep records of all the meetings
6. Provide administrative support for meetings in respect of documentation, taking minutes and the distribution of the agenda
7. Plan and facilitate country and regional programmes of APMCHUD
8. Develop a reporting framework for APMCHUD and for the activities of the Bureau;
9. Develop and promote systems to effect cooperation and coordination between Governments, multilateral institutions and private sector.

b) **Technical Experts**

The incumbents will be response for the following:

1. Providing technical leadership to the secretariat
2. Developing and monitoring norms and standards to achieve best practices in urban development and the implementation of human settlements.
3. Rendering, developing and providing a framework for assessing the progress being made in the achievement objectives of APMCHUD
4. Supporting the development and implementation of the vision and objectives of APMCHUD by rendering research support.

c) Office Administrator

The day-to-day management of the office of the Executive Secretariat, incorporating the following:

- (i) The management of the financial and accounting systems in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations governing public service;
- (ii) Financial planning and the preparation of fundraising proposal;
- (iii) Providing basic administrative systems and support.

d) Support staff

- (i) To provide secretarial assistance to the Head of secretariat
- (ii) Making of travel, accommodation and other logical arrangements.
- (iii) Handling and processing of subsistence and travel advances and claims;
- (iv) Screening of calls and arranging meetings and keeping a diary for the Head of Secretariat;
- (v) The typing of correspondence and the maintenance of a filing system and registry of all correspondence and documentation being handled by the Head of Secretariat.

II. Action plan

Key Objective	Output	Activities/Projects	Time-Frame	Indicators
Establishment & Manning of Secretariat	Establishment of office Recruitment of manpower	Office identification Seed capital Norms for selection of staff		
Develop financing mechanism for the activities of secretariat	To be supported initially by the Government of India	Liaise with UN-Habitat and other partners Opening a Bank account		An operative bank account
Develop a strategy to promote APMCHUD Mandate & roles of the secretariat	Operationalisation of the Framework of Implementation and the Delhi Declaration Approval of an effective communication strategy. Ratification of roles by APMCHUD	Set Up and maintain a website including a journal Visits to the sub-regions and countries Produce CDROM & Printed literature Produce and disseminate Memoranda Arrange meeting with Embassies and UN-Habitat		Recognition at international forum and support by international organizations and institutions Mainstreaming of the framework of Delhi Declaration by member countries
Build and enhance the capacity of APMCHUD to affect global and continental government policies	An APMCHUD strategy perspective on issue sustainable development	Develop a database of research institution and their capacities. Develop perspective on issue of relevance and priority. Strengthen South-South cooperation for exchanges in knowledge, expertise and ideas.		Close cooperation with Governments

III. Sources of Finance

1. The Interim Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD has already been operationalised and is functional since April 2007.
 2. The Executive Secretariat to undertake the functions as outlined above, would be initially supported by the Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) with skeletal staff and logistic arrangements.
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Item No. 4: Any other items with the permission of the Chair.

Background Reference

The Delhi Declaration on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)

We, the Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for housing and urban development, meeting in New Delhi, India, on 15th –16th December 2006, to consider the challenge of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific;

Recognizing the urgency of the global shelter challenge as emphasized in paragraph 56(m) of the World Summit 2005 outcome document, on the need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility;

Welcoming with satisfaction the recognition of the shelter challenge at the same level as water, energy, health and biodiversity in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) declaration and subsequent the focus by the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) on water, sanitation and human settlement, as the first entry point in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and delivering the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Recalling the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Istanbul in 1996 and the Habitat Agenda which addressed the two themes of equal global importance: “Adequate shelter for all” and “Sustainable human settlements development”;

Recalling further the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which recognized that the process of urbanization is intrinsic to economic and social development;

Encouraged by the successes as well as the catalytic roles other Ministerial bodies have played in their respective regions;

Noting that the Asian-Pacific Region is emerging as a major contributor to the global urban transition, holding 61 per cent of the global population and 43% of the world urban population;

Noting also that this rapid urbanization is an irreversible process that poses challenges far beyond the management capacity of governments, local authorities and other institutions, but also offers opportunities that need to be harnessed;

Aware that the region is gradually growing into a power-house of the world economy accounting for over half of the world's growth since 2001, much of which being domestically driven;

Cognizant of the fact that poverty in terms low income; poor health and education, low access to basic services, deprivation in knowledge and communications, is widespread in the Region;

Cognizant also that a sizeable segment of urban population in the Region is living in slums;

Cognizant further that the region has one of the poorest coverage in terms of sanitation among all regions;

Conscious of the linkages and the interdependencies between rural and urban areas and the importance of balanced territorial development strategies to promote synergies between towns, cities and their rural hinterlands;

Realizing that sustainable housing and urban development has a crucial bearing on the quality of life of all people in terms of their economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being;

Aware of the fact that the growing urban poverty and its increasing incidence among women require gender sensitive approaches to sustainable urban development;

Recognizing that the rich diversity in culture, tradition, language, religion and civilization in our region is the collective strength which can be used for constructive partnership for exchange and for the achievement of the common goal of sustainable housing and urban development;

Recognising further our common pursuit of social development, which aims at social justice, solidarity, harmony and equality within and among countries and their implications for human settlement development;

Noting that political will, decentralization, good governance and the empowerment of national and local authorities as well as the adoption of inclusive processes of decision making are fundamental to addressing the housing and urbanization challenges in the Asia and Pacific Region;

Noting further the close linkage between rural and urban areas, wherein the need to promote urban amenities in rural areas is critical for balanced development;

Noting also the special circumstances of Pacific island nations and small island states that require a different perspective in urban management and planning;

Cognizant of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation of Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific:

1. Express profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government of India for the efforts made in convening and hosting this inaugural conference leading to the launch of the Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD);
2. Commend the Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) for her efforts in facilitating and jointly convening this conference with Government of India;

3. Appreciate the contribution of participating governments and all other co-operating Partners to make this conference productive and successful;
4. Appreciate further the contribution of participating governments and all other co-operating Partners, including the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
5. Commend further the partnership between UN-HABITAT and Asian Development Bank to bring significant new investments in Water and Sanitation together to the urban poor in the Asia - Pacific region to support the achievement of the MDGs;
6. Appreciate also the commendable efforts made by the participating institutions that contributed effectively to the deliberations of this Ministerial Conference;
7. Decide to establish the Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) as the consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of Housing and Urban Development in the Asia-Pacific Region;
8. Decide that APMCHUD will, *inter alia*, and as guided by the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific:
 - a. Serve as a forum and network to discuss the urban challenge at the continental level and regional level as a basis for national, provincial and local level strategies and policies and as a focus for the discussion of the habitat agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals and Targets;
 - b. Encourage and promote the strengthening of good urban governance in Asia - Pacific and serve as a platform for advocacy of inclusive urban governance;
 - c. Enhance the role of gender in local government management for the development process, to be achieved by providing bigger role

for women in local governance, particularly in areas related to slum eradication programmes;

- d. Champion and Support Innovative Housing, Urban Development and Land Management Practices in Asia-Pacific;
- e. Promote development of appropriate housing and low-cost construction technology for rural and urban housing;
- f. Facilitate south-south and international exchanges of expertise, research, experience and best practices in human settlements among private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in the region;
- g. Develop a better understanding of urban land dynamics that can lead to improved land tenure and to the growth of urban land markets in Asia-Pacific;
- h. Provide and promote a supportive environment for informal sector activities, including street vending, within national regulatory framework;
- i. Support relief and rehabilitation of shelter and human settlements development in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- j. Urge development partners and multi-lateral agencies to assist Asia-Pacific countries on financing housing and urban infrastructure development;
- k. Promote capacity building efforts and encourage strong ties between research institutions to better understand the economic, legal and financial importance of housing urban development and urban land in Asia-Pacific;
- l. Encourage the collection and sharing of data and information that can improve the planning and management of urban development;
- m. Promote the institutionalisation of a culture for urban planning including the preparation of urban strategic plans at both national and local levels;

- n. Encourage the mobilization of domestic financial resources for housing and urban development and promote the necessary partnership for attainment of this objective;
- o. Mainstream urban and other issues dealing with human settlements in the macro-economic frameworks and national budgets of Asia-Pacific governments;
- p. Provide a focal point to link relevant aspects of regional strategic initiatives as well as international processes and undertakings consistent with the agenda for sustainable urbanisation;
- q. Encourage partnerships with private sector for shelter , urban infrastructure and services ;
- r. Undertake all other functions that will lead to the realization of the goals of the enhanced framework of implementation for housing and human settlements in Asia-Pacific adopted by this conference;
- s. Explore possibilities of establishing a regional fund in the context of housing finance for the poor;
- t. Encourage fast-track implementation of water and sanitation programmes to achieve the MDG's specific targets;
- u. Promote broad-based participation, taking into account the issues related to youth, women, disabled, and vulnerable groups;
- v. Promote and encourage policies and programmes that are people-centric and community-based;
- w. Promote a sense of urban citizenship through fostering civic responsibilities.
- x. Address the negative impact of natural disasters and conflicts and the importance of social peace and harmony on the living conditions in towns and cities; and,
- y. Promote integrated and sustainable rural and urban development to address the problems of urbanization.

9. Decide further that APMCHUD will establish links with other inter-ministerial conferences working on issues related to the Habitat Agenda, including, but not limited to, matters concerning finance, water supply and sanitation, local government, land and infrastructure;
10. Resolve that APMCHUD may initially be composed of the following organs:
- The Biennial Ministerial Conference,
 - The Bureau, and
 - The Secretariat
11. Resolve also that the Biennial Ministerial Conference shall be composed of Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development and shall normally meet after every two years to consult and review progress on the promotion of sustainable development of Human settlements in Asia-Pacific;
12. Decide that the host and the Chair of this inaugural conference, India, shall be the first Chair of the Bureau and shall serve until the next biennial conference;
13. Confirm that the Bureau established at this inaugural conference shall serve as the first Bureau of the Asia - Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) with its members being Ministers representing:
- South Asia, represented by Republic of India as Chair of the Bureau, and Islamic Republic of Iran;
 - South East Asia: represented by Malaysia, and also as the Rapporteur;
 - East Asia: represented by Peoples Republic of China;
 - North and Central Asia: represented by Azerbaijan;
 - Western Asia: represented by Jordan;

- Pacific and Oceania: represented by Papua New-Guinea;
14. Decide that the Bureau shall be elected by the Biennial Conference of Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development and shall hold office until the next conference;
 15. Request the Bureau to convene within four months to identify the modalities of establishing the Secretariat and other organs. In the meantime, an interim Secretariat may be established in India as soon as possible;
 16. Request further that upon finalization of the modalities of establishment of the Secretariat and other organs, the same may be put as an Appendix to this Declaration;
 17. Resolve that APMCHUD meets every two years, preferably three months before the sessions of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT;
 18. Request the Asia - Pacific countries and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to assist the Bureau in its efforts to establish the Secretariat;
 19. Call upon all co-operating partners, including ASEAN, SAARC, Pacific Islands Forum, ECO, other relevant UN agencies, the Asian Development Bank, and donors, to support APMCHUD efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in this Declaration;
 20. Request the Asia-Pacific countries to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in countries by establishing Coordinating Committees for the sector, and giving a high prominence to the challenges of sustainable urbanisation;
 21. Recommend that the member countries of the Asia - Pacific assist the United Nations in its current efforts to revive the United Nations Habitat

and Human Settlements Foundation as a mechanism for promoting slum upgrading and other pro-poor housing and infrastructure finance;

22. Request the Bureau of APMCHUD to inform the relevant regional, international and UN agencies and programmes on the creation of APMCHUD;

23. Commit ourselves to apprise our respective Heads of States and Governments on the outcome of this conference and take appropriate actions to implement this declaration

24. Welcome the offer by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the next Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development at a date to be communicated later.

ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC

1. Overview

2. Rapid economic growth is one of the most striking features of Asian development. The impact of economic growth is vividly manifested in contemporary urban development in Asia. Today in many parts of Asia and the Pacific, urbanisation is being accelerated by a new global economy that is literally changing the face of the continent. Though there is a continuing strong progress towards the reduction of income poverty, performance against many social indicators in Asia is mixed. Asia has to confront the reality that more than two-thirds of the world's poor live in Asia, and that the benefits of strong economic growth are not shared equally. In the Asia-Pacific region alone, more than 650 million people live on one dollar-a-day or less. This accounts for 65% of the world's ultra-poor. Asia also is home to half the world's slum population. And despite economic growth and the contribution of cities in this growth, the slum population is rising.
3. With half of humanity living in towns and cities, the world has now entered a new urban era. Cities create much of the pollution that causes climate change. The urban poor are particularly vulnerable to disasters. This makes many cities giant disaster traps. New thinking is needed so that countries in the Asia-Pacific region regard and treat their cities as living eco-systems.
4. These concerns have been raised at the national, regional and international levels to improve the lives of people in cities and towns. Against this background:
 - The 1994 *Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)* recognised that “The process of urbanisation is intrinsic to economic and social development ...” and recommended “... to foster a more balanced distribution of population by promoting sustainable

development in both major sending and receiving areas.” The ICPD clearly underlined that “Such development should be ecologically sound and promote economic, social and gender equity”.

- In 1996 the UN-HABITAT Summit in Istanbul and the 2001 Istanbul + 5 review Summit called on Governments to take the measures necessary to ensure adequate housing for all, alleviate urban poverty and promote overall social development.
- The Heads of State and Government, in September 2000, in New York committed themselves to the *Millennium Declaration*. It provides an integrated development framework. Goal 7 covering Environmental sustainability addresses the challenge of housing and urban development. Within a wider framework of social and economic interventions, it seeks the “improvement of the lives of slum dwellers” implying access to safe water, sanitation, security of tenure, durability of housing, and sufficient living area as well as social services such as health and education.
- Specifically, Target 10 of the *Millennium Development Goal No. 7* urges UN Member States to “Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”. Target 11 aims to “Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.”
- Further, at the World Summit in 2005, world leaders agreed to the following: “In pursuance of our commitment to achieve sustainable development, we further resolve: 56 (m): To achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility;”

5. These international responses to the challenges posed by rapid economic growth and urbanisation, coupled with a large proportion of population living in slums, called for joint collaboration between the UN-HABITAT and the Government of India to organize the First Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference of Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) under the theme, "*A Vision for Sustainable Urbanisation in the Asia-Pacific by 2020*".
6. The Conference strongly endorsed the vision of achieving Sustainable Urbanisation by 2020 in the region. The deliberations and recommendations have resulted in the development of this enhanced framework for the implementation of programmes for achieving this vision in Asia and the Pacific.

While it was seen as important to agree on general principles and concepts. There is a need for individual countries to consider the recommendations made by the Conference based on each country's particular context related to scale of population, level of urbanisation, level of prosperity, environmental situation, political and administrative arrangements and level of development. Considering the diversity in this vast region, including small island nations, each country may have to evolve and adopt specific practices and policies adapted to their unique local context.

The Conference welcomed the comprehensive approach towards integrated and sustainable rural and urban development, as outlined by H.E. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, President of the Republic of India, in his address during the inauguration of the Conference. This approach is also reflected in the recommendations of this enhanced framework.

II. Urbanisation challenges and opportunities

7. The urbanisation level in Asia will increase from about 40 percent today to about 60 percent in the next two decades. Nearly 90 percent of the population growth will be absorbed in the urban centres of Asia.

8. While economic growth in Asia has progressed well, and made it much richer than ever before, this growth is contingent upon the way in which Asian cities are managed, and how the urban poor are cared for. The current growth pattern has also brought about enormous disparities across and within nations. Asia must face up to the fact that more than two-thirds of the world's poor live in the region, and that the benefits of strong economic growth are not shared equally. In the Asia-Pacific region alone, more than 650 million people live on one dollar-a-day or less. This accounts for 65% of the world's ultra-poor.
9. Along with the prosperity that globalisation brings to Asian urban economies, there are associated problems of poor infrastructure, lack of basic services, increasing pollution, and growing numbers of poor people. It is feared that the rapid economic growth will bring about a worsening of environmental indicators, with more air pollution, and less groundwater availability.
10. Notwithstanding the above, urbanisation can be a positive development process if well managed and controlled with equitable access to land, adequate shelter as well as the provision of basic services. Political will, decentralisation, good governance and the empowerment of national and local authorities as well as the adoption of inclusive processes for mobilising local resources and judicious resource-allocation and decision making are fundamental to addressing the urbanisation challenge in Asia and the Pacific. In a rapidly urbanising region, the promotion of balanced and sustainable urbanisation requires, more than ever, strategic, integrated planning, capacity building, as well as strong regional co-operation, knowledge sharing, networking and monitoring.
11. The framework aims to identify and suggest measures for more effective urban development policies and strategies in Asia-Pacific so as to guide the actions of all stakeholders (government and non-government) and help steer

them towards the achievement of the common urban vision. The framework also aims to identify linkages between land policies and urbanisation.

III. Pro-poor urban governance and planning

12. The key challenge is improving urban governance and management through an enhanced local investment climate that promotes economic growth and increases employment.
13. To redress the most rapid urbanisation in the world, sustain high economic growth, eradicating poverty and inequity, requires reinvigorating urban planning, working with the private sector, embedding a pro-poor policy orientation, inclusiveness and empowerment.
14. It is necessary to seek rapidly responsive and sustainable modalities of providing shelter, infrastructure services and means of livelihood. It is also necessary to enhance the role of city and community leadership, ensure civic involvement and private sector engagement.
15. These principles will be realised through effective decentralisation policies and mechanisms that streamline inter-governmental relations, strategic integrated planning harnessing a full engagement of stakeholders and forging realistic public- private-people partnerships.
16. Enhancing local investment climate will require systems and institutional mechanisms that nurture a partnership between public, private and civil sectors in service delivery, infrastructural development, as well as in producing means of livelihood. Similarly, the regulatory and oversight frameworks, which allow the private and community sectors to generate means of livelihood will have to be attended to and realigned. The capacity of city administrators will need to be enhanced to capitalize on the positive aspects of globalization and mitigate its negative effects.
17. Inclusive processes for decision-making, which involve civil society must be encouraged and promoted. Particular emphasis must be placed on the involvement of women, the poor and disadvantaged groups through involving

them in decision making process, planning programme development, implementation and monitoring.

18. The lack of institutional capacity, to deal with the development needs of the urban poor, remains a severe constraint and bottleneck in many Asian countries. This is particularly the case with urban local authorities, which have the direct responsibility for the management of cities and address the special requirement of the urban poor. National governments should develop a proactive framework for national support to local administrations. At the same time, local governments need to act independently to improve local management and enhance capacity, capability, efficiency, accountability and responsiveness to needs of the urban poor, within the national framework and performance benchmarking.
19. The issues of the human security, natural disasters, and conflicts have become important in Asia in recent times as they affect the poor the most. We need concerted efforts in mitigating natural disasters such as typhoons, cyclones, floods, landslides, Tsunami and earthquakes.
20. In a few countries ongoing civil conflicts have gravely affected on development and increased vulnerability of urban poor due to rapid demographic movement. For effective reconstruction process and capacity building in post-conflict situation, special attention will need to be put in place, taking into account the lack of governance and pressure to governments to divert resources for social development programmes.
21. Increasing urban sprawl as well as the social and economic needs of the region's cities call for an urgent need to enhance the planning function through a rapidly responsive intervention at all levels and taking into account the growth in fringe areas, peri-urban areas and rural-urban continuum to deploy it as an effective instrument of urban governance.
22. A new culture of planning process should be inclusive and provide a valid space for urban poor livelihoods and their living. Viewed in this light, planning is about getting a comprehensive, intensive utilisation of land and promoting

innovative policies for formal access to lands by the poor, such as land sharing, land pooling, equality land and property rights to women.

23. Planning needs to be guided by innovative, imaginative, entrepreneurial principles of land management and administration. The process should establish pro-poor planning standards and building and construction regulatory framework that overcomes the rigidities often characterizing urban development and delivery of services especially for the urban poor population.
24. The dominance of the master plan seems to pervade a number of countries in the region. The master plan is projected to be a key official document for planned development of urban centres. The context of rapid economic growth has made urban planning to be quite challenging. It is necessary to adopt innovative planning tools to accommodate growth dynamics of cities.
25. Urban centres are the drivers of economic development, but often have limited resources to meet the growing demand for infrastructure and services especially for urban poor. However, questions still remain whether the needs of the poor are met or not. The solution to this lies in forging realistic public-private-people partnerships.
26. There is an urgent need to promote a sense of urban citizenship through fostering civic responsibilities and to adopt a 'Citizen Charter' in each city that provides a sense of inclusiveness and commitment by all, and that includes all social aspects of urban development.
27. Local institutional systems, including those dealing with regulatory functions, socialization, capacity building, livelihoods and appreciation of social and cultural values, conflict resolution, safety and security, need to be preserved and consolidated.
28. Urban renewal and urban development processes should pay particular attention to the needs of the urban poor and not resort to relocation without alternative. It should promote preservation and conservation of cultural heritage in cities.

29. A pro-poor orientation needs to be emphasized, which includes: an enabling condition for the poor, increased space for engagement, empowerment as well as the prevalence of inclusive systems. The poor contribute richly to the social economic development and GDP.
30. The issue of small island states with shortage of land, fragile eco systems, resources, fragmented nature of the populations, high urban migration, sea transport constraints and lack of viable social and public infrastructure, affect urban governance and planning responsive to all, especially the poor. This calls for a different perspective in urban management and planning that is responsive to the particular needs of the small island states and countries in the Asia Pacific Region.
31. Vision 2020: considering the prospects of vision 2020, governance and planning processes should aim at achieving cities without slums cities which are environmentally sustainable, liveable, economically viable, especially for urban poor.

IV. Slum Upgrading and Prevention

32. All slum upgrading and prevention activities undertaken in the region should be within the overall context of MDG Goal 7 Target 11.
33. The policy, projects and programmes at regional, national and local levels shall be guided by the following recommendations.
34. While it may be useful to agree on general principals and concepts for slum upgrading and prevention, each country and city may have to evolve and adopt specific practices and policies adapt to their unique local context.
35. Governments are to facilitate comprehensive assessments of slum living conditions, in the region and make information widely available and updated it regularly. UN-HABITAT and relevant local, national and regional institutions should be engaged in this process.
36. Governments at all levels should demonstrate strong and consistent political will which is critical to address the problem of slums and squatter settlements and will help in launching programme and policy initiatives at national and

regional level. This is to be translated into formulation and adoption of a national policy on slum upgrading and prevention by 2008, inclusive of well-defined national and city targets.

37. Further, with a view to slum prevention, they should implement progressive policy reforms to facilitate the setting up of proper urban planning and land regulation and management systems that take into consideration different forms of land tenure; the provision of affordable and accessible land and housing; the improved coverage of water supply and sanitation services; appropriate institutional frameworks; and equitable economic policies.
38. Governments should not consider upgrading as a mere technical operation, implemented in a top-down manner. As part of a rights-based approach to housing, governments and other implementing actors should involve slum residents and their organisations through consultation and participation in the formulation, decision-making and implementation of projects, programmes and strategies for slum upgrading. Where needed, community participation should include capacity building for empowerment since slum dwellers are the first right holders. The objective of upgrading should be to integrate slum dwellers and the mainstream through rehabilitation and ensuring participation in all sectors.
39. Governments have to ensure that slum upgrading and prevention programmes provide equal opportunities for women and make them active participants in the entire process.
40. Governments in the region, multilateral and bilateral organisations and all stakeholders in the urban sector should focus on socio-economic development, such as employment generation, micro-finance and community-based credit schemes, while undertaking upgrading and prevention measures and programmes and should equally address the needs of women, youth and the disabled.
41. Governments should facilitate delivery of affordable serviced land and housing for low-income groups in suitable locations in order to prevent new slum formation. Land should be made available to individual families,

communities, non-profit organisations, cooperatives, and the private sector. Housing delivery to be promoted should include different tenure forms such as affordable rental housing. Also, employer-assisted housing schemes, including sites and services with access to finance, insurance, and government incentives, should be considered as alternatives where possible.

42. Governments should explore possible public-private partnership to implement slum improvement and/or redevelopment projects particularly in high land value locations. Land use planning in such projects needs to be balanced between housing space and social and commercial infrastructure in order to avoid further densification/overcrowding and displacement. While redevelopment based on high-rise buildings can be a solution in certain socio-economic contexts, it can lead to a number of problems due to life-style issues, affordability, and infrastructure and maintenance constraints. These should be taken into consideration by governments when initiating such partnership arrangements. Above all, such initiatives should not be at the cost of slum dwellers' access to land and services.
43. Based on the principle that water is life, and sanitation is dignity, coverage of water supply and sanitation services should be made available by governments or responsible agencies to slum dwellers irrespective of their tenure status.
44. Governments could use land as a resource in the process of slum upgrading and redevelopment projects to mobilize land value potential for generating revenues to cross-subsidise housing and infrastructure. They should explore possibilities for setting up a social equity fund from the realisation of such projects.
45. Governments should provide security of tenure to informal dwellers as the overarching condition for success and sustainability of upgrading; avoid eviction, and if resettlement is inevitable, they should find a negotiated solution based on slum dwellers right to adequate housing.

46. Housing finance is key to slum upgrading and prevention; governments should put into place legislative and fiduciary mechanisms to facilitate provision of affordable finance including micro finance and mortgages.
47. Governments should promote self-help groups and cooperative housing initiatives, especially for women, so that ownership stays in the community to avoid, *inter alia*, gentrification/sale of housing by beneficiaries.
48. Governments should scale up projects to large scale programmes at city and country levels facing up to the double challenge of upgrading existing slums and preventing future slums. However, governments in countries emerging from armed conflict or natural disasters should do upgrading progressively starting from quick impact projects that are attractive to the beneficiaries and include income generation opportunities.
49. UN-HABITAT, UNESCAP, ADB and other relevant organisations should play a key role in compiling and analysing country experiences in the region and disseminate them to countries. For slum prevention, they should carry out studies anticipating urban population increase in order to meet the challenge of slum prevention, particularly the need of housing for the weaker and migrating population and persuade policy-makers to adopt long-term housing plans, integrating the economically weaker sections into the mainstream, and provide guidelines.
50. Governments should build capacity for implementation of upgrading and prevention measures, including human and technical resources, where necessary through collaborative efforts with development partners. Further, governments should recognise and promote good cultural and traditional values that can enhance the livelihoods of slum dwellers.
51. Governments should strive to improve living conditions in rural areas and make rural centres more attractive to reduce population pressure on large cities and to promote well-functioning rural-urban linkages.

V. Delivery of Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation in the Asia-Pacific Region

52. Asia Pacific is a region of great diversity in all its aspects - systems of administration, culture and availability of water. There can, therefore, be no one blueprint approach for the full provision of safe water and sanitation services to the people of each country. There are multiple routes to match each different set of circumstances particularly at the micro level.
53. However, the fundamental premise on which progress can be made is that ensuring the delivery of water and sanitation services is squarely the responsibility of each national government in Asia Pacific Region. But to be successful they will need, above all, determined leadership and the political will that is absolutely necessary to maintain the commitment that will be needed.
54. The burden associated with inadequate coverage and access and of inefficient service delivery falls heaviest on the most vulnerable and the poorest. Lack of access to safe sanitation affects women the most not only in terms of their health but also their dignity and safety, particularly in areas of conflict or those affected by disasters. Women and girls especially find their productivity impaired by their social roles and the costly and time-consuming tasks of collection and storage of water. Because of the lack of access and the poor quality of services, low tariffs often do not help the poor, who are less likely to be connected in the first place and rely on informal vendors.
55. Inadequate and ill directed financial flows together with poor technical and management capacities can and do frustrate otherwise positive policy initiatives and cripple water and sanitation service delivery. Further, restoration and up gradation of water sanitation services destroyed by conflict and natural disaster require special attention.
56. Enhancement of investment in water /sanitation services including government allocation, use of institutional finance (including banks), microfinance, and people's own resources requires special attention.
57. Equal sharing of resources amongst various stakeholders including industrial and commercial establishments (who often benefit from perverse subsidies and low tariffs) and with poor communities (who suffer from high costs in

terms of time and money from unreliable supplies of expensive water) based on bold increases in tariff levels with generous and targeted subsidies for poor families, with cost recovery for sustainability are required.

58. Provision of sufficient resources and incentives need to be presented for operation and maintenance including continued subsidies from central funds to local bodies/service providers who are not able to generate enough resources from consumers in their areas (applicable to both urban and rural situations where there are large numbers of poor people and fewer high payers including industrial and commercial establishments).
59. Investment in training and skill development at all levels of local service is required. A case can also be made for the capacity building of local elected representatives (mayors, members of locally elected bodies at town and village level) who can only discharge their obligations with proper information and some subject knowledge.
60. Civil Society organizations not only champion the cause of poor people but also introduce innovations in technical designs, management systems (including the role of women's groups in traditionally male bastions such as technical maintenance of public water and sanitation facilities) and accountability measures such as social audits. Specific resources allocated to civil society organizations as would be a big step forward, particularly in outreach to poor communities.
61. Public disclosure of water and sanitation budgets and the regular scrutiny of expenditure is part of an accountability mechanism, which can help to direct resources to the right places (such as slum settlements) and to combat corruption.
62. Often it is the problems of big metropolitan centers that occupy the attention of policy makers and service providers. Secondary towns and peri-urban areas receive disproportionately small amounts of time, attention and resources should adequately be provided.
63. There is a need to create fiscal and legal measures (such as right to information) and systems that would enhance better disclosure. It should be

applied to all government departments, public utilities or contracted private operators at other service providers.

64. Better information will make it more possible to measure performance, address problems and serve consumers according to their specific requirements. Civil society organizations can play an important part in the generation of accurate information (including mapping) about water and sanitation facilities, not just their availability but also their usage and their impact on the lives of poor people.
65. The sustainability of improved delivery hinges on institutional change, but the record of delayed projects or initiatives requires special mechanisms to expedite projects.
66. Confusion in policy development, administration and accountability between government departments with a stake in safe water and sanitation provision including the ministries of health, urban development, water resources and possibly others is not unusual and more likely in rapidly growing urban conglomerations. Practical steps to improve the situation could include the following:
 - As far as national policy and planning is concerned, it is important to cut across different types of contexts – from big metropolitan centres to secondary towns and peri-urban areas.
 - In order to avoid harmful environmental consequences such as water logging and mixing of sewage with storm water it is important to plan water and sanitation projects in an integrated manner and not sequentially.
67. Policies relating to land tenure and occupancy rights in 'unrecognized' slums in urban conglomerations sometimes result in very large number of poor people being left out of water and sanitation projects. Suitable measures needs to be addressed to ensure great exclusivity.
68. Use of appropriate technology for water quality, solid waste management and including promotion of green technologies for sustainable environment management should be made.

69. Use of mapping tools like GIS to map coverage, resources and monitoring of quality and access to environmental services should be made.

70. While the primary responsibility for water and sanitation services is that of governments and appropriate local authority there is enough experience to show that they will need partnerships with others such as civil society organizations, the private sector and regional knowledge center to be able to reach the levels of coverage, especially among poor communities that will be necessary to reach the ambitious objective of full coverage.

71. Three imperatives are particularly important:

- The need for a concerted campaign over the next five years to raise general awareness (of problems and solutions) about issues concerning water, sanitation, hygiene and the environment and generate the drive and momentum to change policies and governance practices, builds community empowerment and sector capacity.
- The need for a multi stakeholder approach in each country to achieve synergies and a united effort.
- The need for active sharing of information and experience across the region as part of a region wide initiative.

72. Above all, sanitation provision should be an overriding theme.

VI. Financing sustainable urbanisation

73. The following views and recommendations are related to financing sustainable urbanization. There is a need to consider the following recommendations based on different context of each country on scale of population, level of urbanization, level of prosperity, environmental situation, political and administrative arrangements and level of development.

Challenges and Opportunities

74. Compared to other continents, community and civil society movements in Asia Pacific region are relatively strong. There is a strong movement of self help groups in several countries. Women are playing a key role in civil society movements. But many of them operate at small scale.

75. Over half of the world's inadequate housing units are located in Asia-Pacific – at roughly 500 million units. The housing sector is also severely constrained by lack of adequate and appropriate housing finance systems. In fact, Asia's mortgage sector is one of the least developed in the world. In Asia, many countries' mortgage financing per year is less than 2 per cent of GDP.
76. The majority of the poor in Asia rely on non-mortgage based financing for housing, partly through shelter microfinance and community funding. Several governments in the region have made significant interventions through a variety of measures to reach out to low income households.
77. Many of the cities in the region are not creditworthy. There is a paradox of rich citizens and poor city governments. But there are several innovations the region is undertaking in improving the governance and bankability of cities. Many cities are creating world class infrastructure to promote economic growth. Similarly, some countries have supported local government reforms related to: enhancing accountability, creditworthiness and own revenues; creation of incentive funds to promote reforms; streamlining of inter-governmental transfers; encouraging market based investments; and, creation of municipal bond markets.
78. The Conference acknowledges that there is a large finance gap in housing and infrastructure sectors in many countries of the region. Provision of housing and related services continues to be a challenge in many Asian cities. Increasing levels of income, globalisation and empowered urban citizens are demanding higher levels of services in many of the Asian countries. There is also significant pressure to create Asian world class cities. Given the structure of the economies of the countries in the region and integration with world markets, Asian cities will have to be competitive on a global scale both in terms of quality and cost efficiency of urban management.
79. The financial sector in the region is comparatively well developed to play a critical role in housing and infrastructure finance. Many countries have liberalized their financial markets. The stock markets in many of the countries are large and well developed. The region is also experiencing significant

growth of the Islamic banking system. But the participation of financial markets in financing of housing and urban infrastructure has been limited, and efforts have to be made to bring them on board in many of the developing countries of the region. The depth and breadth of the capital markets provide opportunities to tap private domestic capital. In general, the private sector has contributed substantially to development in the region.

80. Micro-finance institutions and informal markets dominate the financial services for the informal sector and poor in many parts of the region. The penetration of micro-finance into the shelter finance sector is significant in many of the developing countries of the region. Significant efforts are underway to integrate the informal (including micro-finance) markets with formal ones in many of the countries in the region.

Community-led Development Process and Civil Society Participation

81. There is a need for scaling up of these movements and processes and introducing the same in other developing countries which do not currently practice them in a comprehensive way. There is a need to promote urban low-income housing policies and programs that are people-centred but community-based.

82. Non-governmental organisations and other civil society institutions have an important role to play in ensuring access to finance especially for poor.

83. Women have central role in any system of the housing and financing as evidenced in many countries and as mandated by UN resolutions. Ownership and leasehold rights, borrowings, basic services may be provided to the women

Deepening of Housing Finance Markets

84. Given the innovations and improved economic growth in the region, there is significant scope for deepening of the housing finance markets and financial services industry, especially for low-to-middle income households in many of the developing countries of the region. The key measures in this regard include:

- Promote affordable housing through provision of improved service delivery and making available serviced land at the right time and the right price;
- Improve land use planning as well as make land available through various measures (including land banks);
- Promote incremental housing and incremental financing linked to: affordability and increasing household incomes based on a non-discriminatory basis;
- Encourage lease and rental solutions for the housing and land for low income households;
- Design and implement specific finance products for housing and infrastructure for the poor within the main financial system as well as through micro-finance institutions based on affordability (to lend on an incremental basis);
- Establishment of special purpose vehicles for intermediating market based housing finance and for improving the management of housing stock, which could be funded from various sources including private sector;
- Introduction of credit bureaus for sharing market information on clients;
- Establishment of mortgage insurance/credit guarantee facilities including for title guarantees;
- Promote securitization mechanisms and other secondary market development measures to promote liquidity for housing and infrastructure finance;
- Facilitate long term funds for housing and infrastructure;
- Deepen life and non-life insurance products especially for low income households; and, housing loan products that are linked to contractual savings products;
- Encourage alternative house building techniques; and, appropriate standards and technologies, through building centres, to reduce the cost of construction of house for the poor;
- Encourage applied academic research in the urban sector and promote best practices.

Enhancement of the Financial Capacity of Local Governments

85. Enhanced fiscal capacity of local governments enables them to undertake development work at a large scale. It is essential that cities are made to work for all citizens – equitably and efficiently. There are several important actions that include:

- Fiscal decentralization aimed at improving own revenue base of cities;
- Promoting land based revenue measures such as impact fees and valorization charges to finance major infrastructure such as public transport;
- Empowering cities to undertake land development with a pro-poor focus; Enhancing the quantity and predictability of inter-governmental transfers, with special attention on output based aid and incentives for reform;
- Promoting credit rating of local governments;
- Rule and market based municipal borrowing frameworks;
- Promoting transparency and efficiency in public expenditure; and

Role of Private Sector and General Financial Services Industry

86. The following are the key recommendations related to private sector and financial services industry

- Deepen non-mortgage financing for the housing and services for the poor through intermediaries such as micro-finance institutions. Housing finance may be extended in parallel with finance for income generating activities and linkage to markets;
- Promote private sector participation for housing and services through “Bottom of Pyramid” approaches as well as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR);
- Promote universal access to comprehensive financial services;
- Promote capital flows from international markets, international financial institutions, foreign investment based on national policies

Government Financial and Non-Financial Support

87. The affordability of the majority of the low-income households is a significant concern. Governments have a critical role to play in creating sustainable financing mechanisms for housing and infrastructure development. The following are the recommendations:

- Explore introduction of direct but targeted pro-poor “smart” subsidies for housing; and in some cases, output-based aid for infrastructure;
- Explore initiating and sustaining dedicated large-scale comprehensive national investment programmes for: income-generation; service provision; and, housing development in low-income neighbourhoods.
- Attract community and private sector financial resources to supplement government resources in the national programmes;
- Explore incentives such as tax concessions or tax holidays to promote private sector participation and attract the financial sector in urban development.

88. The governments can also provide substantial non-financial support through the following measures:

- Emphasis on housing and urban development in national development policies;
- Legal reforms to promote private sector participation and attract domestic financial sector into urban development especially for low income households;
- Influencing utilization of donor support for housing and urban development;
- Ensuring that laws are enforced;
- Addressing issues of environmental degradation to lessen the risk and manage the cost of housing and settlement development.

Regional Activities

89. There is a need for capacity building of key stakeholders and experience sharing in the region through regional forums and other mechanisms.
90. Explore the possibility of establishment of regional fund for providing housing finance for poor in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Follow-up Actions

91. It is time to focus on action. There is a need to implement projects and programmes that move the agenda forward no matter how small or big. Through these interventions, it would be possible to: test the theories and the market; bring commercial orientation in local governments; and build scalable and workable solutions to address the problems of slum upgrading and slum prevention. There is also need for establishing country-level technical assistance facilities that support project implementation and policy reforms.
92. To enhance the understanding on multiple dimensions of urban poverty and various types of vulnerabilities that urban poor face, it is desirable that each member country develops and adopts a national strategy for sustainable and inclusive housing finance system. Such a strategy may include a well-defined National Action Plan, which may be regularly monitored for ensuring the outcome.

VII. Consultative Mechanism

93. Establish and institutionalize a consultative mechanism of Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for housing and urban development. The consultative mechanism will play a significant role in the realization of the vision of sustainable urbanization by 2020 in Asia-Pacific.

The Consultative Mechanism should:

- Serve as a forum and network to discuss the urban challenge at the continental level and regional level as a basis for national, provincial and local level strategies and policies and as a focus for the discussion of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals and Targets;
- Encourage and promote the strengthening of good urban governance in Asia Pacific and serve as a platform for advocacy of inclusive urban governance;
- Champion and support innovative housing, urban development and land management practices in Asia-Pacific;
- Promote development of appropriate housing and low-cost construction technology for rural and urban housing;
- Facilitate South-South and international exchanges of expertise, research, experience and best practices in human settlements among private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in the region;
- Develop a better understanding of urban land dynamics that can lead to improved land tenure and to the growth of urban land markets in Asia-Pacific ;
- Provide and promote a supportive environment for informal sector activities, including street vending, within national regulatory framework;
- Support relief and rehabilitation of shelter and human settlements development in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- Urge development partners and multi-lateral agencies to assist Asia Pacific countries on financing housing and urban infrastructure development;
- Promote capacity building efforts and encourage strong ties between research institutions to understand better the economic, legal and financial importance of housing urban development and urban land in Asia-Pacific;
- Encourage the collection and sharing of data and information that can improve the planning and management of urban development;

- Promote the institutionalisation of a culture for urban planning including the preparation of urban strategic plans at both national and local authority level;
- Encourage the mobilization of domestic financial resources for housing and urban development and promote the necessary partnerships for attainment of this objective;
- Mainstream urban and other issues dealing with human settlements in the macro-economic frameworks and national budgets of Asia-Pacific governments;
- Provide a focal point to link relevant aspects of regional strategic initiatives as well as international processes and undertakings consistent with the agenda for sustainable urbanisation;
- Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- Encourage partnerships with private sector for shelter , urban infrastructure and services ;
- Undertake all other functions that will lead to the realization of the goals of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Housing and Human Settlements in Asia-Pacific adopted by this Conference;
- Explore possibilities of establishing a regional fund for housing finance for the poor;
- Encourage fast-track implementation of water and sanitation programmes to achieve the MDG targets;
- Promote broad-based participation, taking into account the issues related to youth, women, disabled, and vulnerable groups;
- Promote and encourage policies and programmes that are people centric and community based;
- Promote a sense of urban citizenship through fostering civic responsibilities.

94. Establish links with other inter-ministerial conferences working on issues related to the Habitat Agenda, including, but not limited to, matters concerning water supply and sanitation, local government, land and infrastructure.