

## THE SOLO DECLARATION

### THE THIRD ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (APMCHUD)

We, the Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for housing and urban development, meet in Solo, Indonesia, on 22 – 24 June 2010, to address the challenges of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific:

*Express* our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the excellent arrangements of the Third Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) and our appreciation to the people of the Republic of Indonesia for their warm hospitality,

*Announce* the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) in New Delhi and express our appreciation for its efforts towards the progress made in implementing the Delhi Declaration and Tehran Declaration, and to UN-HABITAT for its continued support to the Conference and its works in the region,

*Express* our sincere gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Second APMCHUD, and for its serious and perseverant chairmanship in the APMCHUD bureau,

*Recognize* the importance of the Delhi Declaration and Tehran Declaration,

*Also recognise* the importance of the Pacific Urban Agenda as adopted at the South Pacific Forum Countries in 2007,

*Express concerns* on the impacts of economic crisis and climate change towards the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with the possibility of significantly harming MDGs commitment indicators in some countries, and the need for additional efforts,

*Express concern* about the significant humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, in which poses extraordinary challenges associated with the rehabilitation of destroyed housing, property and infrastructure, in addition to the continued deterioration in the human settlements and the housing conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, and the need to enable rapid recovery and reconstruction alongside humanitarian interventions, including concerted efforts for the smooth flow of building materials in accordance with guidelines agreed upon by all parties,

*Recognize* the important role of local stakeholders, including the poor and vulnerable groups with due attention to the needs of women and children in achieving sustainable urbanization,

including addressing the challenges posed by climate change and the economic crisis; and the need to increase stakeholder capacity to support the process of sustainable urbanization,

*Realize* the challenges of cities and human settlements in sustainable development and the growing need for urban-led development, which includes comprehensive strategies for rural-urban linkages and focus on local potentials and community aspirations, as well as promoting energy efficient development through the diversification of energy resources, including the peaceful use of nuclear energy towards sustainable urban development,

*Take note* the importance to strengthen cooperation between member countries in developing disaster prevention mechanism as well as emergency, reconstruction and recovery of areas damaged by disasters and extreme climate-change related events,

*Recognize* that cities around the Asia-Pacific region rely on the knowledge of their citizens, their institutions and their firms and enterprises to support sustainable development and there is already a wealth of development experience and knowledge, of which needs to be captured, share and disseminated more effectively for the benefit of our partners in development.

*Cognizant* of the current challenges and opportunities in the region:

1. *Acknowledge* the need to develop policies and strategies to empower communities for sustainable urbanization;
2. *Agree* to develop database and information systems; knowledge, innovation and learning networks between cities and countries in order to provide and serve local needs to support sustainable urbanization;
3. *Agree to promote* the utilization of the capacity of the Regional Centre for Knowledge and Learning Network for Community Empowerment in Housing and Urban Development at existing centres in Indonesia and encourage other countries to take similar initiatives in order to strengthen APMCHUD's role as hub for knowledge in sustainable urbanization.
4. *Agree* to increase and accelerate capacity of stakeholders for integrated, participatory and inclusive planning by developing cooperation on tools and instruments for planning and governance to achieve sustainable urbanization;
5. *Agree* to strengthen poverty alleviation programmes in the urban system, especially facilitating access of the poor to the basic infrastructure provision, social and economic resources, through community empowerment and improved security of tenure;
6. *Invite* Governments to promote indicators on sustainable development for water supply and sanitation, housing, urban services, suitable with the local conditions; and urge governments to create an enabling environment through policies and actions to achieve sustainable urbanization;
7. *Urge* the Asia Pacific Community to minimize wars and conflicts in the region and make cities peaceful and liveable places for future generations;
8. *Recommend* to incorporate the impacts of climate change in spatial planning at the macro and micro levels;

9. *Take note* on the outcome of the Fifth World Urban Forum and call upon the next World Urban Forum to promote sustainable and harmonious urbanization, with an emphasis to cope with the negative impact of economic crisis and climate change;
10. *Agree* to analyze various policies adopted by planners to address the challenges of housing and urbanization which could lead to possible regional cooperation mechanism;
11. *Adopt* the Solo Implementation Plan resulting from the five Working Groups as attached;
12. *Agree* on the continuation of the activities of the five Working Groups, the Secretariat of which to be hosted by volunteer member countries. The five working group comprise of as follows:
  - WG1 Urban and Rural Planning and Management
  - WG2 Upgrading of Slum and Informal Settlements
  - WG3 Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation
  - WG4 Financing Sustainable Housing
  - WG5 Urban Development with a focus on Natural Disasters
13. *Endorse* the composition of the 3rd Bureau of APMCHUD with its members being Ministers representing:
  - a. Republic of Indonesia
  - b. Islamic Republic of Iran
  - c. Republic of the Fiji Islands
  - d. Republic of India
  - e. Republic of Iraq
  - f. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
  - g. Republic of Korea
  - h. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
14. *Request* the current chair of APMCHUD to ensure the implementation of this declaration in collaboration with other members of the Bureau, the APMCHUD Secretariat and the UN-Habitat Secretariat and look forward to receiving regular updates.
15. *Welcome* the offer by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to host the 4th Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in 2012.

Adopted in Solo on 24 June, 2010.