

## THE AMMAN DECLARATION

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

We, the Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development, meeting in Amman, Jordan, 10 – 12 December 2012, to consider challenges and to explore opportunities of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific;

*Express* our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the excellent arrangements of the Fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) and our gratitude to the people of the Hashemite Kingdom and particularly the city of Amman for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to us throughout our stay;

Also Expressing our sincere thanks to the Republic of Indonesia for successfully chairing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bureau of APMCHUD and providing excellent leadership and guidance during the tenure as the chair.

*Convey* our gratitude to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for the continuing support provided by UN-Habitat since the creation of APMCHUD;

*Thank with appreciation* the continued support by the Government of India, more specifically by the Ministry of

Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation for hosting the Permanent Secretariat in New Delhi.

*Take note with appreciation* the progress that APMCHUD has made since its establishment in serving as a platform for consultation and a vehicle for collaboration in fostering sustainable urban development in the region;

*Reaffirm* our determination to realize the goals and objectives of APMCHUD as pronounced in the Delhi Declaration and the subsequent commitments agreed in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and also in Solo, Republic of Indonesia;

*Take cognizance* of the dynamic potential of youth across the region in terms of their demographic dominance in our cities, their potential role in socio-economic development, their increasing engagement in the governance of our communities, cities and nations, and also their critical importance in ensuring the sustainable development of our region;

*Acknowledge* with pride the leadership role our region is assuming in advancing in *information and communication technology* (ICT) globally as well as the increasing usage of ICT in urban, rural and national development;

*Acknowledge also* the role that cities play in advancing ICT and the way in which the skill, expertise and creativity of youth in the region have served as powerful factors in shifting the technological hub of information and communication to the Asia-Pacific region;

*Appreciate* the positive experiences acquired in different parts of the region in using ICT for providing livelihoods, improved services, participation in planning, fostering transparency and accountability, and in general promoting the role of youth in local and national development;

*Recognize* that the dynamism of our youth at local and national level and the potential of ICT needs to fully and optimally utilized;

*Cognizant* that the challenges of unemployment, alienation, despair, unequal access to resources still undermine the potential of youths in the region, particularly those in the urban centers;

Welcoming UN-Habitat's State of Urban Youth 2012/2013 Report which recommends a better match between education skills and labour market needs through vocational training and the participation of the private sector;

Appreciating the opportunities we have as Ministers Responsible for Housing and Urban Development and acknowledging the gravity of the youth challenge as well as the potential of ICT in accelerating sustainable urban development in the region decide:

1. *Develop* National Urban Policies where they do not exist and review the existing ones in order to promote youth participation in decision making, volunteerism, skills development, employment creation and entrepreneurship development;

2. *Call upon* the relevant ministries to undertake capacity building within their institutions to meet the changing demands for the utilization of ICT at the national and local levels;
3. *Encourage* resource mobilization for the benefit of local authorities and municipalities to enable them to achieve the objectives of the declaration;
4. *Consider* setting up an inter-ministerial committee with relevant ministries working towards implementing youth programmes related to ICT, Housing and Urban Development;
5. *Encourage* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban youth with the aim of enhancing the substantial involvement of young people in sustainable urban development in the Asia Pacific region;
6. *Agree in principle* to contribute a sum of US\$10,000 per member state annually to the budget of APMCHUD. However, member states are encouraged to contribute higher amounts. This resolution will be discussed in the next APMCHUD conference in the Republic of Korea in 2014;

7. *Agree* to equip the APMCHUD Secretariat with adequate human resources to execute the Implementation Plan agreed in the conference and for long term sustainability of APMCHUD;
8. *Commit* to actively engage in the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and to sponsor a resolution on youth, as well as actively involve in the World Urban Forum 7, World Habitat Day, Post 2015 Development Agenda and preparations for Habitat III in 2016;
9. We the Ministers of Asia-Pacific region condemn in the strongest language the increase in violence and terrorist actions which is leading to displacement of people across the region, and to demand the countries and groups behind these calamities to recognize the right of these people to return to their homes and birthplaces. In line with that we call on all members of the United Nations to recognize one's right to their legally owned land and to condemn illegal land acquisition and internal and external displacement of people anywhere.
10. We call on International organizations and especially United Nations and UN-Habitat to strongly continue their mandate and defend the rights of these victims and make the reconstruction of their cities and homes, as well as the provision of shelter for the less privileged in urban and rural areas in the Asia-Pacific region, their main priority.

11. *Encourage* member countries to take the lead to chair the Working Group 3, and agree to continue with the Working Groups as below:
- WG1 Urban and Rural Planning and Management with a sub-theme of Youth & IT – INDIA
  - WG2 Upgrading of Slums and Informal Settlements with a sub-theme Livelihood Opportunities for Youth – I.R. IRAN
  - WG3 Delivery of Basic Services with a sub-theme of Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Urban Basic Services
  - WG4 Financing Sustainable Housing with a sub-theme of Opportunities for Financing Youth-Led Development – S. KOREA
  - WG5 Urban Development with a focus on Natural and Climate Change related Disasters with a sub-theme of Youth as City Changers for Prosperous Cities - INDONESIA
12. Endorse the composition of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bureau of APMCHUD with its members being Ministers representing:
- a. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
  - b. Republic of Indonesia

- c. Islamic Republic of Iran
  - d. Republic of India
  - e. Republic of Iraq
  - f. Republic of Korea
  - g. Republic of Maldives
  - h. Independent State of Samoa
13. 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 look forward to receiving regular updates.
14. Welcome the offer by the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in 2014.

Adopted at Amman on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.

