



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## SIDE EVENT

### Adequate, Safe and Affordable Housing as a Pillar for Sustainable Development

High Level Political Forum, New York, July 2018

*International Peace Institute, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York  
17 July 8:00-10:00am*

#### Background

The global housing challenge is growing fast with urbanization. More than 50 percent of the world's population lives in cities and this number is expected to rise to 60 percent by 2030. This will add another 1.5 billion people to cities by 2030, requiring the construction of an estimated 96,150 housing units per day to respect, promote and protect the right of people to adequate housing.

Addressing these housing needs is a challenge and an opportunity for authorities at various levels of interventions. Cities and countries need to be well equipped and supported with advisory services ranging from appropriate guidelines, effective policies and adequate regulations to allow for the provision of adequate housing alternatives at the scale needed. This should also contribute to reducing slum growth as well as ensuring rights-based, sustainable, inclusive and pro-poor urban development.

The world leaders now recognize that housing is among the biggest challenges of sustainable urbanization, hence, this challenge is high in the international agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes Sustainable Development Goal 11 and its Target 11.1 committing to ensure by 2030 **“access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums”**. In October 2016, the Habitat III Conference approved the New Urban Agenda, as a guiding framework for sustainable urban development for the next two decades. The NUA acknowledges the relevance of housing as an essential component for attaining SDG Target 11.1. The realization of the NUA's transformative commitments towards inclusion, prosperity and sustainability largely depends on how housing issues will be tackled in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

The High Level Political Forum 2018 is a unique opportunity to share lessons and progress made to achieve the SDGs. The Side Event “*Adequate, Safe and Affordable Housing as a Pillar for Sustainable Development*” organized by the **Kingdom of Bahrain** and co-organized by the Governments of **Angola, Bulgaria, Malaysia and Paraguay** in collaboration with UN-Habitat and UNDP will be the opportunity to share experiences and contribute to strengthen the political commitment towards the provision of adequate housing for all.

### **Objective of the Side Event**

The objective of this Side Event is to discuss ongoing and future government efforts to improve access to adequate housing and achieve SDG Target 11.1 “*By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums*”. In addition, it aims to increase awareness and commitment of Member States to addressing the challenges of housing more holistically and repositioning housing at the centre of national development strategies.

The event will include Heads of Delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Angola, Bulgaria, Malaysia and Paraguay. The five countries, representing five different regions of the globe, are currently working with UN-Habitat and UNDP to strengthen housing policy frameworks and improve access to adequate and affordable housing. The Side Event will be the opportunity to share progress and learn about innovative solutions to achieve SDG Target 11.1.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The Side Event expects to strengthen the exchange experiences and foster partnership between countries and organizations active in promoting better access to housing. Outcomes include:

1. Stock-taking of recent trends and good practices;
2. Advance discussions on a longer-term collaboration and the establishment of a community of practice on affordable housing solutions led by the five countries.

### **Participants**

- **Heads of delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Angola, Bulgaria, Malaysia and Paraguay**
  - Hon. Eng. Basim Bin Yacob AlHammer, Minister of Housing, Bahrain
  - Hon Ms. Ana Paula Chantre Luna de Carvalho, Minister of Territorial Planning and Housing, Angola
  - Hon. Mr. Nikolay Nankov, Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria
  - Hon. Ms. Maria Soledad Nunez Mendez, Executive Minister National Secretariat of Housing and Habitat, Paraguay
  - Hon. Ms. Zuraida Kamarudi, Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government, Malaysia
- **Member States attending HLPF, independent experts, academic and representatives from civil society organizations and NGOs**
- **Representatives from the United Nations**

## **Format of the Event**

The event is designed as a talk-show format of 1.5-hour duration, with welcome remarks, an introduction by moderator, five rounds of questions to speakers on different topics and Q&A by the audience.

Presentations will be in English.

---

## **TENTATIVE PROGRAMME**

---

8:00 – 8:15	<b>Breakfast Buffet</b>
8:15 – 8:45	<b>WELCOME REMARKS</b> Hon. Eng. Basim Bin Yacob AlHamer, Minister of Housing Bahrain Ms. Amina Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General UN (tbc) Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator UNDP (tbc) Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director UN-Habitat (tbc)
8:45 – 8:50	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> Overview of housing issues in five countries highlighting specificities and diversity; <b>By Moderator</b>
8:50 – 9:00	<b>ROUND I – VISION AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS</b> (Each country will have a 2min statement to respond) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Statements highlighting the vision and main achievements in improving access to housing for all;</li></ul> <p>Countries will also be invited to prepare and show a short video (1-2 minutes maximum) conveying one genuine example of a person or family whose life has changed as a result of improved housing access.</p>
9:00 – 9:10	<b>ROUND II – POLICY AND GOVERNANCE</b> (Below are the examples of topics to be discussed; the questions on this round will be addressed to Bahrain, Bulgaria and Malaysia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discuss policy, institutional and regulatory reforms and efforts contributing to improving adequate and affordable housing delivery;</li><li>- Give examples of effective governance systems enabling policy, legislation and institutional cohesion between different government tiers;</li><li>- Demonstrate that the delivery of adequate and affordable housing, envisioned and conceived in an integrated and planned manner, brings positive socio-economic outcomes for people, cities and countries.</li><li>-</li></ul>

---

9:10 – 9:20	<p><b>ROUND III – INCLUSION</b>          (Below are the examples of topics to be discussed; the questions on this round will be addressed to Angola and Paraguay)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Showcase how greater consideration of housing in urban planning, in consonance with land and infrastructure delivery, can contribute to inclusion and sustainability of cities;</li> <li>- Give examples of innovative housing design promoting spatial inclusion, access to employment, social mix, mixed land use and social diversity in cities;</li> <li>- Demonstrate efforts to address the housing needs of the most poor and vulnerable;</li> </ul>
9:20 – 9:30	<p><b>ROUND IV – ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>          (Below are the examples of topics to be discussed; the questions on this round will be addressed to Bulgaria and Malaysia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give examples of innovative housing design in terms of energy consumption;</li> <li>- Showcase how housing policy is contributing to climate change responsiveness and preparedness, and resiliency in cities;</li> </ul>
9:30 – 9:40	<p><b>ROUND V – FINANCE AND AFFORDABILITY</b>          (Below are the examples of topics to be discussed; the questions on this round will be addressed to Bahrain, Angola and Paraguay)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Showcase innovations and efforts in housing finance approaches to address the global problem of housing affordability and improve access to finance;</li> <li>- Focus on the strategic role of private sector, NGOs and civil society in connecting finance to affordable housing supply;</li> <li>- Give examples of innovative and inclusive finance mechanisms and the potential to scale them up;</li> </ul>
9:40 – 9:55	<p><b>QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE</b></p>
9:55 – 10:00	<p><b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>          By Moderator</p>
10:00 – 10:30	<p><b>PRESS CONFERENCE</b>          Angola, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Malaysia and Paraguay</p>