



Official Translation from Arabic

The Arab Quito Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

We Arab Ministers for Housing and Reconstruction, and the leaders responsible for local governments and urban development in the Arab countries, meeting in Quito, Ecuador, on 19.10.2016, to participate in the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development during the period 17 to 20, October 2016,

Expressing our gratitude to the Government of Ecuador for efforts made in hosting and convening this international conference,

Look forward to a New Urban Agenda that is specific and practical and closely consistent with major international frameworks that have been reached in 2015, which began with the adoption of the Sandai Declaration for Disaster Risk Reduction in March, and the Addis Ababa Action Plan on Financing for Development in July, and Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development in September, and the Paris Agreement approved under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December,

Emphasizing our commitment to the promotion of housing and sustainable urban development,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 11 - "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable," and all housing and urban targets falling thereunder;

Referring to the Resolution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), No. 24/8, which provides for the provision of regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development, including support for the Arab Ministerial Forum on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, established in April 19, 2013,

Referring also to the outcome of the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (AMFHUD), which is a regional cooperation mechanism for the promotion of housing and sustainable urban development in the Arab region, and the Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, issued in December 22, 2015, and the adoption of the Arab strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030 by the Arab Summit in July 2016,

Emphasizing that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda needs to recognize the needs of countries in special situations: such as the peoples and countries living under occupation, and countries suffering from refugees, displaced people and internally forced movements as a result of wars, internal conflicts, crises, and terrorism,

Affirming the need to pay special attention to cities affected by conflicts, wars, occupation and terrorism, in particular those ancient cities that are being destroyed and whose original features are being changed and falsified to create a new reality,

Expressing concern over the increasing numbers of refugees, displaced people and internally forced movements, as a result of wars, internal conflicts, crises and terrorism, which constitutes an additional burden on the affected countries and urban areas in the neighboring countries in the Arab region,

Aware that, water scarcity is a serious challenge to the urban Arab world; this requires to identify actions that must be undertaken by all stakeholders in order to optimize use of water. While following a water energy nexus approach, which enables taking advantage of the developments in renewable energy prices in the region Arabic,

Recalling the statement of the Arab Group in New York on the New Urban Agenda, which included: avoiding the introduction of any controversial concepts, new rights that reflect a likely legal nature, in the New Urban Agenda, but instead, the focus should be on the goals of the New Urban Agenda that need to be achieved,

Stressing the need to take advantage of the numerous capabilities and comparative advantages available to the Arab countries combined, in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and believing that the means of implementation are not only limited to the provision of international finance, but also requires taking steps by all sectors in the Arab countries to achieve sustainable urban development,

We seek the following:

1. Support and take all necessary measures to ensure the development and the creation of cities that are safer, more comprehensive, flexible and sustainable in the Arab region, thus contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Arab countries, where the Arab human being is at the center,
2. Implement the Arab Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development 2030, through the development of a regional implementation plan, which takes into account national action plans;
3. Take advantage of the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development (AMFHUD) as a consultative mechanism for cooperation, and to promote policies and strategies for housing and sustainable urban development in the Arab region, in the context of the ongoing international dialogue on sustainable development;
4. Establish cooperation and coordination between the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, and its African counterpart: The African Ministerial Forum for Sustainable Urban Development, in the framework of South - South cooperation;
5. Formulate, implement and promote inclusive National Urban Policies and Housing Strategies and legislations that enables efficient institutional frameworks and the application of sustainable urban plans; while supplying them with adequate financial resources to ensure proper implementation at various levels, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;
6. Strengthen and reinforce national and regional monitoring, evaluation and learning for the implementation of sustainable housing and urbanization targets, committed by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the New Urban Agenda;

7. Enhance exchange of best practices in the framework of South-South cooperation and increasing partnerships and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, and other Habitat Agenda partners; and the development of integrated projects, and investment in technology and scientific research, while integrating the efforts of scientific institutions, research centers, and universities at the national and regional levels, to enhance the knowledge base and capacity building so as to support the decision-making process in the Arab region;

8. Emphasize that the insertion of terminologies inconsistent with the principles and concepts of the Islamic religion and Islamic Sharia and other religions is not in the interest of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, but effective sustained implementation originates from the core of the community, and respects the beliefs and particularities of countries, and endeavor not to compromise their beliefs or interfere in their internal affairs;

9. Call upon the international community to commit to providing humanitarian and development support for all those countries and host communities affected by refugees and internally displaced people in the Arab countries, during their temporary presence, and in line with international law, and until they return to their countries of origin;

10. Invite the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) to continue providing technical support in the formulation and implementation of sustainable urban development and housing policies and programs at regional, national and local levels in the Arab region. In this regard, we request the international community to provide financial and technical support for UN-HABITAT to enable it to fulfill its vital role in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
