

**OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF HABITAT AGENDA**

**FOR: THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR  
HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT  
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## **1. INTRODUCTION:**

In recognition of the importance of Regional and Local Government, the new government of the Republic of Namibia that came to power at independence in 1990 established the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing. The most serious political conditions for the new government were its desire to remove the last legacy of the oppressive and divisive apartheid era. In its place, the government established regional and local government structures that are truly democratic, foster national unity and promote people's participation in the development process.

### **1.1 LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK.**

Right from its establishment the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing obtained its mandate with respect to housing from the constitution. The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia provides a framework for legislation and policies to safeguard Namibian's equal rights to shelter.

### **1.2 POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Immediately after Namibia's independence in 1990, Government identified housing as one of its four priority areas of development along with Education, Health and Agriculture. The government's commitment in the area of housing led to the formulation of the National Housing Policy which was approved by Cabinet in July 1991. The Central goal of the Policy is "to make resources available for the development of infrastructure and facilities so that every Namibian family will be given a fair opportunity to acquire land with water energy and a waste disposal system, and to facilitate access to shelter in suitable locations at cost and standard which is affordable to the family on the one hand and to the nation on the other hand". The policy clearly states that the role of government is to facilitate and promote the partnership between the public, private, local and regional institutions, CBOs, NGOs, and individuals. National, regional and local strategies underpinning shelter delivery and human settlements development in Namibia were formulated and are intended to guide the activities of all stakeholders and agencies involved in land and housing delivery in the country.

Based on the policy, the Ministry of Regional Local Government and Housing with the assistance of the UNDP and UNCHS has developed an implementation strategy for the National Housing Programme which is called the Build Together Programme.

### **1.3 INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT**

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the right to acquire housing has been recognised as an important component of the right to an adequate standard of living. The Government of the Republic of Namibia is signatory to the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, 1996 and committed itself to the implementation of:

## The Habitat II Agenda and