

**MEMORANDUM ON RECOMMENDATIONS
TOWARDS THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA**

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Purpose

1. This memorandum has been prepared to submit recommendations towards the revised zero draft of the Habitat III NEW URBAN AGENDA dated 18th June 2016.

Background

2. The East and Southern Africa Regional Housing Network (ESARHN) is a network of Civil Society organizations dealing in housing and human settlements which was established in 2013. It comprises of nine (9) organizations from East and Southern Africa. These are:

SN	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
1	Pamoja Trust	Kenya
2	National Cooperative Housing Union	Kenya
3	Shelter and Settlements Alternatives- Uganda Human Settlements Network	Uganda
4	Uganda Housing Cooperatives Union	Uganda
5	Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat Zambia	Zambia
6	Zimbabwe National Housing Cooperatives	Zimbabwe
7	Center for Community Development	Malawi
8	Tanzania Home Economics Association	Tanzania
9	Mwanza Rural Housing Programme	Tanzania

3. The network has a focus on improving and contributing to improved human settlements and housing through improved policy framework, practices and system changes. Recognizing the importance of the New Urban Agenda and Habitat III process, members of the EASRHN have identified these critical issues for consideration.

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE HABITAT III PROCESS

4. The revised zero draft has addressed most of the critical issues regarding the New Urban Agenda; we however note that the rural dimensions have not been sufficiently addressed. Africa is predominantly rural despite most of the countries urbanizing at a high rate (3% per annum) and there is an equally huge number of migrants into urban areas. We are however witnessing an increased urbanization of rural areas and this requires that these areas are included in the plan of action as the African continent continues to urbanize.
5. Housing Finance has been one of the main obstacles towards realization of housing rights for the majority poor. Further, limited capacity of local authorities to provide services such as housing development and human settlement means that demand for such services over rides planning and supply. It therefore remains imperative that capacity building of local authorities as well as provision of financing and identification of available financing products is critical.
6. The follow up actions of the proposed New Urban Agenda is an important aspect but we propose that we have a section that outlines the monitoring framework at local, national and regional level. This will allow for inclusiveness and participation of all relevant stakeholders including communities.

Petitions

Based on the issues identified above, we hereby submit the following recommendations and adjustments to the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda

7. We propose addition of the phrase “**Human settlements**” after every reference of Cities in order to broaden the focus and include rural communities (such as paragraph 5, 7, 36 etc.).
8. Paragraph 9: The phrase “**progressive realization**” leaves space for laxity in realization of the objective. We recommend that governments and states should be compelled to develop country specific post Quito implementation plans that will have measurable milestones as a measure for “progressive realization”
9. Paragraph 11. IV: We recommend that while the document broadly mentions, financing frameworks, the document should task country level authorities to include housing finance in municipal finance plans.
10. Paragraph 58: We recommend that the sentence include effective decentralization. “We commit to urban planning processes that incorporate integrated water resources planning and management, considering urban – rural linkages at the local and territorial scales, ensuring the participation of multiple sectors, stakeholders and communities **through enhanced decentralization**”.
11. The title before Paragraph 67 should equally have a focus on the rural dimension as follows. “Building the Urban and **Rural** Governance Structure: Establishing a supportive Framework” This is because urban planning for Africa looks at the rural areas transforming into urban centers.
12. Paragraph 68: We will anchor the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda on inclusive and Implementable national urban policies, including land and housing policies to guide sustainable **rural and** urban development as an integral part of the national development strategy, supported by appropriate national, sub-national and local institutions and regulatory frameworks, ensuring that they are adequately linked to finance mechanisms and **sound rural and** urban planning guidelines.
13. Paragraph 106: We will support leveraging cultural heritage for sustainable urban development, and recognize its role in stimulating participation and responsibility, and promote the new use of architectural monuments and sites with the intention of value creation, through respectful restoration and adaption. We will further support the undertaking of comprehensive inventories and mapping of tangible and intangible assets, utilizing both new and traditional technologies and techniques **through research and development** while involving local communities as appropriate

- 14.Paragraph 114: Increasing autonomy of local governments; we propose that some taxes currently being collected by the central government should be left to the local government to collect so as to strengthen their functionality
- 15.Means of implementation: We propose that implementation should be defined clearly to the specific departments. There is need to disaggregate the responsible stakeholders in the implementation plan so as to have clear accountability
- 16.Paragraph 121: There is need to highlight governments' commitment to providing funds for housing development and not only mention external funding.
- 17.The role of trade and investment structuring dictates that housing is commercial good because it contributes to increased GDP therefore we propose that even as states promote an open market, housing should not only be considered as a commercial good but rather housing as a social good should be rightfully recognized and protected
- 18.Paragraph 134: the data collection should be participatory and not only open and transparent as we have evidenced the strength and viability in community collected data
- 19.Paragraph 139: National habitat committees should be created and strengthened for strong monitoring and following up. They should be the lead in ensuring checks and balances for implementation
- 20.The monitoring framework needs to be elaborate: Section C should specifically talk about monitoring; we propose to call the section "follow up, monitoring and review".
- 21.There is need to specifically deal with inequality: a need to define "not leaving anyone behind" to specifically talk about ensuring inclusiveness and not dragging those who are being along
- 22.Paragraph 145: In implementing a transformative agenda the mandate and structure of UN Habitat should be reviewed with the aim of strengthening it to be equal to other UN agencies
- 23.Paragraph 146; we propose to define the periodic to either annual or every two years (at every governing council meeting) so that there is clear monitoring and reporting
- 24.Paragraph 146 is also very useful and guiding to the implementation plan; it will form the basis of how different stakeholders will transact within the NUA