

Third Meeting of the Bureau of APMCHUD

Date : 3rd February, 2008

Venue: Tehran, Iran

Agenda papers

Third Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development

Dates: 3rd February, 2008

Venue: Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Proposed Agenda Items

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development held at Nairobi on 27th October, 2007.

Item No. 2: Action taken report on the decisions of the Bureau of APMCHUD in its Second meeting.

Item No.3: Status on seeking support from the multi-lateral Institutions for the APMCHUD Initiative – a report

Item No. 4: Status of preparations for the 2nd Conference of APMCHUD at Tehran

Item No.5: Any other items with the permission of the Chair.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development held at Nairobi on 27th October, 2007.

A copy of the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development held at Amman, Jordan on 27th October, 2007 is placed.

The Bureau may consider the Minutes for ratification.

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Bureau of Asia Pacific Ministers
Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)**

Venue : **Amman, Jordan**
Date : **27-28 October, 2007**

Participants :

Honourable Kumari Selja
Chairperson, Bureau of APMCHUD and
Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
Republic of India

Honourable Husni Abu Ghaida
Minister of Public Works and Housing,
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Honourable Manoucher Kajeh Dalloui
Vice Minister for Housing and Cities
Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Dato' Hasnudin Hamzah
Ambassador of Malaysia
Embassy of **Malaysia**
Amman, Jordan

Mr. Kanan Murtuzov
First Secretary, Embassy of **Republic of Azerbaijan**
Amman, Jordan

Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh
Joint Secretary (Housing) Govt. of India and
Chief Coordinator, **Bureau of APMCHUD**

Representatives from UN-HABITAT

Mr. Markandey Rai
Coordinator, Global Parliamentarians
UN-HABITAT, Nairobi

Mr. Ali Shabou
Chief of UN-HABITAT Office in Amman

Country Delegations

India

Mr. R. Dayakar
Ambassador of India

Mr. K L Dhingra
Chairman and Managing Director,
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)

Mr. Manoj Aggarwal
PS to Honourable Minister, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
Government of India

Dr. P. Jayapal
Executive Director (Urban and Regional Planning)
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)

Mr. Rajesh Goel
Deputy Chief (Corporate Planning)
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)

Iran

Mr. Sadeq Sadegpur
Expert in International Cooperation
Ministry of Housing and Cities, Iran

Jordan

Mr. Shehadah Abu Hdaib
Director General
Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC), Jordan

Arch. Suleiman Hassanat
Senior Director of Housing Policies, HUDC

Arch. Mai Asfour
Director General Consultant for Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation, HUDC

At the outset, Chairperson of the Bureau, Kumari Selja, Honourable Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India welcomed the Honourable Members and distinguished participants for the second meeting of the Bureau. The Chairperson, on behalf of the member countries of the Bureau expressed her gratitude to the Honourable Minister for Public Works and Housing, Jordan Mr Husni Abu Ghaida for His Excellency's efforts to host the meeting and for the hospitality and courtesies extended in Jordan. The Chairperson also complemented the Hon'ble Minister for taking up innovative initiatives in the field of housing and urban development in Jordan and specifically mentioned about the recent initiative for creation of Community Development Fund in Jordan for financing community wide services including social facilities and affordable housing. The Chairperson highlighted the need for wider dissemination of such innovative best practices in the region for effective replication.

Highlighting the need for extensive sharing of knowledge and experiences among the member countries, the Chairperson informed that an exclusive website for APMCHUD (www.apmchud.com) has been developed by the Interim Secretariat of the Bureau. This initial version of the web-site attempts to provide information on the APMCHUD activities at large. The chairperson requested all member countries to give their valuable suggestions for improving the web-site in terms of its contents, information base, and presentation mode to make it more useful informative and interactive.

She further indicated that the Interim Secretariat had prepared a draft concept note incorporating an action plan to facilitate a focussed approach towards achieving the ambitious agenda set in the Delhi Declaration, which would be discussed in detail in this meeting.

The Chairperson also congratulated Mr. Hdaib, Director General, HUDC on being conferred the Royal Medal from the His Majesty the King of Jordan, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of housing and urban development in Jordan.

Briefly outlining the major decisions taken in the first meeting of the Bureau held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007, the Chairperson explained about the actions taken thereon.

After the introductory remarks of the Chairperson, the members joined the Chairperson in formally launching the website of APMCHUD (www.apmchud.com). The Chief Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat of the Bureau, Mr. S.K. Singh demonstrated live, the contents of the website. It was noted that this interactive website, provides complete details on the background of the APMCHUD Conference held at Delhi in December, 2006, constitution of the Bureau of the APMCHUD, details of the various meetings held at Delhi and Nairobi and the relevant documents such as Delhi Declaration of APMCHUD and the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific. The site also provides online linkages to various important websites of relevant Institutions such as UN-Habitat, UN-ESCAP, SAARC, ASEAN, Asian Development Bank, Pacific Islands Forum, and ECO. This effort of the Interim Secretariat in developing the web-site was applauded by the members of the Bureau.

The Honourable Vice Minister from Iran, Mr. Monoucher Kajeh Dalloui, in his remarks appreciated the sincere efforts being put by India towards the evolution of APMCHUD as a vibrant mechanism for regional

cooperation in the sector. Explaining the on-going preparatory arrangements for the forthcoming 2nd Conference of APMCHUD tentatively scheduled for May 2008 at Tehran, the Minister solicited extensive guidance and cooperation from the Secretariat of the Bureau. The Minister also thanked Mr Husni Abu Ghaida, Honourable Minister for Public Works and Housing, Jordan and Mr. Shehadah Abu Hdaib, Director General, HUDC, Government of Jordan, for hosting this event in a pleasant environment.

The Director General, HUDC, Mr. Shehadah Abu Hdaib while welcoming the members and participants, briefly explained the initiatives being taken by HUDC as the government's sole agency responsible for housing and urban sectors and highlighted the achievements of HUDC, He indicated that since the establishment of HUDC in 1965, the organisation has provided shelter to more than 42 thousand households all over the country, in addition to the public buildings such as schools, health centres, community buildings, commercial centres, etc. Briefly outlining the Jordan Government's National Housing Strategy and the reforms in the housing sector, he expressed the Government's resolve to jointly work with the members in fulfilling the commitments of the millennium development goals for sustainable development.

The Honourable Minister of Public Works and Housing, Government of Jordan, Mr. Husni Abu Ghaida, in his address welcomed the Honourable Ministers and delegates for the Second Meeting of the Bureau of APMCHUD to Amman, the capital of Jordan. He highlighted the challenges of rapid urbanisation and deteriorating quality of life of the poor, and underlined the critical role of shelter in addressing the socio-economic challenges and expectations. The Hon'ble Minister further elaborated on the various initiatives being taken up by the Government

of Jordan to address these challenges. He informed the Bureau about the new royal grant initiated by His Majesty, King Abdullah the II, for providing housing to about 33,000 households in the next 5 years in an affordable manner. He appreciated the efforts of the Government of India for initiating the Asia Pacific Ministerial Assembly for housing and urban development in 2006 towards addressing the challenges facing the Asia Pacific countries and provide a common understanding among them on housing and urban issues and fostering partnerships between the governments and other stake holders.

After the brief remarks by the Honourable Members, the Chief Coordinator Mr. S.K. Singh, with the permission of the Chair, introduced the agenda items.

Agenda Item No. 1 :

Confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007.

The Chief Coordinator, while introducing the agenda items, indicated that the Minutes of the 1st Meeting were circulated to all the members of the Bureau and no comments have been received thereon. The members were requested to offer comments, if any, on the minutes of the first meeting of the Bureau.

The representative from Azerbaijan enquired about the comments, if any, received from China with regard to Item No. 3 of the first meeting. The Chief Coordinator informed that no comments were received from China in this regard and accordingly, action of placing the statement on establishment of APMCHUD and soliciting active participation and

assistance from UN-Habitat, in the 21st Governing Council Meeting of the UN-Habitat at Nairobi was completed.

There being no other comments from the members, **the Bureau ratified the minutes of the 1st meeting of the Bureau** held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007.

Item No. 2:

Action taken report on the decisions of the Bureau of APMCHUD in its First meeting held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007.

The Chief Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat explained the various actions to be taken as a follow-up of the decisions in the 1st Meeting of the Bureau held at Nairobi, and outlined the actions taken on each decision.

As part of agenda item No. 1 of the 1st Meeting on the theme of setting up of an Interim Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD, the Bureau had desired that the details of the Interim Secretariat already set up be conveyed to all the Members of the APMCHUD. It was noted that a communication has already been issued by the Hon'ble Chairperson in this regard to all the Member Countries of the APMCHUD, and a copy of the same was also placed with the agenda item for the information of the Bureau.

As part of the agenda item No.2 of the 1st Meeting in regard to identification of modalities of establishing the Secretariat and other organs, the Bureau had decided that the details on the activities, etc of the Permanent Secretariat be considered in the forthcoming Meeting. It was noted that a proposal on the subject has already been incorporated

as a separate agenda item for discussion in this 2nd Meeting of the Bureau.

As part of the agenda item No.3 of the 1st Meeting in regard to soliciting the Asia Pacific Countries and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to assist the Bureau in its efforts to establish the Secretariat, the Bureau had decided that the Statement by the Chairperson of the Bureau of APMCHUD on establishment of APMCHUD and soliciting active participation and assistance from UN-Habitat, be tabled in the 21st Governing Council Meeting of the UN-HABITAT after receipt of comments, if any, from the Bureau Members. It was noted that as no comments were received, the Statement was tabled in the 21st Governing Council Meeting of the UN-HABITAT on 19th April, 2007

As part of the agenda item No.4 of the 1st Meeting in regard soliciting the co-operating partners to support APMCHUD efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in the Delhi Declaration of APMCHUD, the Bureau had decided that the Chairperson may address an appropriate communication to keep the referred Institutions/agencies and other related organizations informed in regard to the formation of the APMCHUD, its Bureau and Secretariat enclosing therewith a copy of the Delhi Declaration. The 2nd meeting of the Bureau noted that a communication as referred has already been sent by the Hon'ble Chairperson and that a copy of the same has also been placed as part of the agenda item for reference of the Hon'ble members of the Bureau.

As part of the agenda item No.5 of the 1st Meeting in regard to establishment of Coordinating Committees for the housing and urban development issues in Asia-Pacific Countries to mainstream the issues of the sector and giving a high prominence to the challenges of sustainable

urbanization, the Bureau had decided that, while each Member country may decide on the appropriate mechanism and composition of the Co-ordination Committee, it may be advisable to constitute the same with the Minister concerned as the Chair. The Bureau further authorized the Chairperson to address an appropriate communication to all the Member Countries of APMCHUD in this regard. The 2nd meeting of the Bureau noted that a communication as referred has already been sent by the Hon'ble Chairperson and that a copy of the same has been placed as part of the agenda item for reference.

As part of the agenda item No.6 of the 1st Meeting in regard to 'any other Item which members may like to take up' it was decided by the Bureau that the next meeting of the Bureau (2nd) be held at New Delhi and the subsequent meetings could be in other countries as may be agreed. In this regard it was indicated that as the Government of Jordan had kindly offered to host the 2nd meeting (current) at Jordan, accordingly, this meeting has been convened at Amman, Jordan.

The Bureau noted the various actions taken on the decisions of the Bureau in its 1st meeting held at Nairobi.

Item No. 3:

Establishment of the Secretariat for the Bureau of APMCHUD and Action Plan for the same

Introducing the agenda item, the Chief Coordinator of the Bureau of APMCHUD indicated that the Bureau in its 1st meeting at Nairobi had decided that the details on the activities, etc of the Permanent Secretariat be considered in the forthcoming Meeting, and accordingly a draft proposal for establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing & Urban Development (APMCHUD) has been drawn-up. He further indicated that the proposal covers the mandatory framework of the APMCHUD, its vision and mission, its executive Secretariat including its structure, action plan and source of finance. Outlining the contents, the Chief Coordinator explained that while drafting the details, a significant guidance has been taken from the efforts already made by similar institutions particularly the African Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development, which is already in existence. The details worked out covers the mandatory framework, vision & mission, roles, structure, action plan, and initial support for the functioning of the Secretariat of the APMCHUD.

While explaining in detail the contents of the mandatory framework and the vision and mission of the APMCHUD, the Chief Coordinator indicated that the special focus of these would be, as outlined by the Chairperson in her initial remarks, on sharing of mutual experiences, exposure to best practices for achieving the common objectives, and facilitate each other in promoting sustainable development of human settlements in the Asia Pacific Region.

While commenting on the contents of para 3 on 'Executive Secretariat', the Hon'ble Member from Iran indicated that, in addition to the 13 items outlined in the agenda item indicating the responsibilities of the executive secretariat, he suggested that the executive secretariat should provide necessary available information to the member country where ever the APMCHUD conference is scheduled to happen. The Hon'ble Member further indicated that the executive secretariat could also play a significant role in collation and dissemination of innovative construction methodologies, methods of financing, sources of financing including public-private partnerships and government subsidies with particular reference to extending affordable housing to the low income population.

Appreciating the suggestion by the Hon'ble Member, the Chairperson indicated that the responsibility of the executive secretariat could be expanded as suggested and accordingly **two additional responsibilities** as under could be added:

"14. Collation and dissemination of innovative construction methodologies, methods of financing, sources of financing including public-private partnerships and government subsidies with particular reference to extending affordable housing to the low income population.

15. Provide necessary available information to the member country, where ever the APMCHUD conference is scheduled to happen."

This was agreed to, by the Bureau.

In regard to the Action Plan for the executive secretariat, the Chief Coordinator indicated that the action plan has been detailed in terms of the key objective, the output expected, the activities/project to be undertaken for achieving the same, and the indicator of its achievement.

He further indicated that the time frame for each of the key objective would be finalized after adoption of the proposed action plan by the Bureau.

The action plan was approved by the Bureau.

In regard to the source of finance, the Chief Coordinator indicated that the Interim secretariat of the Bureau is already functional in New Delhi since April 2007, and that the executive secretariat to undertake the functions outlined in the agenda would be initially supported by the Government of India, Ministry of Housing and urban Poverty Alleviation and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) with skeletal staff and logistic arrangements.

Elaborating on the issue of sources of finance for the operations of the Executive Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD, the Chairperson indicated that the issue of financial assistance from UN-Habitat has been discussed extensively in the context of the African MCHUD. The Chairperson indicated that the Institutional support, though may be forthcoming, may take a substantial time to firm up, and in this process a considerable time may be lost in operationalising the actions the way the APMCHUD has intended to. In order to immediately get into action mode, it was felt desirable to start with the support from Government of India with nominal support and without the financial support issue hampering the progress of work/initiatives. Accordingly at this stage, this proposal is submitted for Bureau's consideration.

Congratulating the efforts for launching the web-site on APMCHUD, the Ambassador of Malaysia in Jordan, indicated that this effort would go a long way in enhancing more meaningful cooperation in the Asia-Pacific

Region. In regard to the source of finance for operationalising the Executive Secretariat, appreciating the decision of the Government of India to support the running of the Secretariat at this stage, enquired whether any expenditure sharing formula has been finalized for the member countries of APMCHUD in future. The Chairperson indicated that no cost sharing formula has been worked out or considered at this stage, and the emphasis has been to operationalise the Secretariat to take up the activities with minimal expenditure support from the Government of India at this stage, and nevertheless inter-governmental contribution or sharing formulas could be discussed later based on the prevalent methods in this regard.

Explaining further on the web-site, the Chairperson indicated that this initial effort would have to be expanded to make it more dynamic with substantial quantum of information on housing and urban development activities incorporated, including various best practices and innovative schemes, with links established to the web-sites of all the member countries of APMCHUD. It should be a rich one with links provided to the web-sites of all relevant institutions. It should have facility for providing comments and views by members and also have link to the official web-sites of all the member countries and also international and multi-lateral Institutions in the field of housing and urban development. The Chairperson welcomed suggestions and comments from the Member countries for its improvement to make it an effective tool for interaction and information exchange.

The Hon'ble Member from Iran expressed his appreciation of this effort in setting up of a web-site for the APMCHUD and felt this would promote substantial interaction among the member countries. The Hon'ble Member suggested that the web-site should have a data bank in which all the

countries place their programmes, views, visions, plans, etc on the four basic aspects outlined in the Delhi Declaration. The details could include the innovative programmes already/to be launched and make them available to all the countries for information, adoption and adaptation. All the members should be able to periodically update the respective details with the help of the executive secretariat.

The Director General of HUDC, Jordan appreciating the effort in launching the web-site for APMCHUD opined that the success of the effort lies in all the countries placing their development programmes/practices and visions in the field of housing and urban development in the web-site for a larger appreciation. He further suggested that with link to the web-sites of UN-HABITAT, etc the best practices in this field should be accessible to every member country, thus making it truly a global information web-site on housing and urban development.

The representative from Azerbaijan felt that this initiative would contribute in improving mutual awareness on developmental initiatives. He further suggested that each member country may provide a focal point officer to update their information content on a regular basis and send it to the executive secretariat for final updating in the web-site. **The suggestion was agreed to by the Bureau.**

Conveying the congratulatory note of the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on the substantial progress being exhibited by the APMCHUD in a short time of its establishment, the representative of UN-HABITAT, Nairobi expressed its continued support to APMCHUD in its efforts to achieve sustainable human settlement development in the Asia Pacific Region. Appreciating the effort made in launching a specific web-site for the APMCHUD, he indicated that UN-HABITAT would go through the

same and offer its comments and suggestions if any, for improving its contents and reach. In regard to the immediate efforts needed by the member countries, the UN-Habitat representative highlighted the suggestion for setting up of coordination committees in each country for the housing and urban development sector to gain a focused impact. Reacting to the suggestion on the establishment of the Coordination Committees in each member country, the Chairperson indicated that a communication has been addressed to all the Member countries to give priority to setting up of the Coordination Committee for the sector to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in respective countries for giving a high prominence to the shelter challenges.

The Bureau appreciated the decision of the Government of India to support the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Bureau in Delhi. With the above, **including the additions proposed to the responsibilities of the executive secretariat, the agenda item on establishment of the Secretariat for the Bureau of APMCHUD and the action plan for the same was approved.**

Item No.4:

Any other items with the permission of the Chair:

The chairperson invited the members to suggest any items for discussion that they may desire.

a) **Holding of the 3rd Meeting of the Bureau:** The Chairperson indicated that as of now, the venue for the next meeting i.e the 3rd meeting of the Bureau is being kept as Delhi, unless any offer is received from the member country to host the same. The Chairperson indicated that any Member country willing to host the 3rd meeting may inform about

their offer separately. The Chairperson further suggested that the time available for the 2nd Conference of the APMCHUD to be held in Tehran is very short, and as such, the next meeting (3rd) of the Bureau may focus extensively on the organization of the Conference.

b) **Holding of the 2nd Conference of the APMCHUD in Tehran, Iran:** The Hon'ble member from Iran indicated that, as of now, the Government of Iran has proposed to hold the 2nd Conference during the second half of May 2008, and desired to know the views/comments on the suitability of the same. After deliberations, it was decided that the tentative date indicated would be put in the web-site as part of the minutes as well, so that any member country having any suggestion/comment may offer the same.

The Hon'ble Member from Iran further desired that to effectively organize the 3rd Conference of APMCHUD at Tehran, Iran cooperation from UN-Habitat as well as the Executive Secretariat of APMCHUD would be required, and accordingly, a focal point needs to be identified and designated for intense interaction. In this regard, the Chairperson indicated that UN-HABITAT has organized systems for extending such cooperation and guidance for similar events, and expressed confidence that UN-HABITAT would extend all its help the same way it extended during the organization of the 1st conference of APMCHUD in Delhi in December 2006. In regard to the cooperation from the Bureau's secretariat, the Chairperson assured that the necessary available information would be provided to the organizers.

c) **Holding of a PREPCOM by APMCHUD and UNESCAP before the next World Urban Forum:** The Chief Coordinator indicated that UNESCAP has desired to organize a Prepcom in association with

APMCHUD, before the World Urban Forum scheduled to be held in 2008. After deliberations it was decided that this could be organized at the sidelines of the 3rd Conference of the APMCHUD in Tehran, and accordingly **the Bureau authorized** the Chief Coordinator to coordinate with UN-ESCAP and the Government of Iran in this regard.

d) Holding of a special one-day session on public-private-partnership just prior to the 3rd Conference of APMCHUD in Tehran, Iran: The representative from UN-HABITAT highlighted the Resolution No.21.7 of the 21st UN Governing Council which pertained to 'sustainable public-private partnership incentive for attracting large scale private sector investment in low income housing' and suggested that an exclusive one-day official level meeting of bureaucrats and technocrats could be organized just on the prior day to the commencement of the 3rd Conference of the APMCHUD, which can finalise its recommendations and provide the same to the Conference for its consideration for adoption. The Chairperson suggested that UN-HABITAT may send its suggestion to the Bureau which would be considered by the Government of Iran for incorporation in the finalized programme.

The meeting of the Bureau of APMCHUD ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Item No. 2: Action taken report on the decisions of the Bureau of APMCHUD in its Second meeting held at Amman, Jordan on 27th October, 2007.

The details of the agenda items, the decisions taken and the action taken so far is placed below:

Agenda Item	Decision(s) Taken	Action(s) Taken
3. Establishment of the Secretariat for the Bureau of APMCHUD and Action Plan for the same	<p>The Bureau decided that the 'responsibility of the executive secretariat' specified in the Concept note on establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD' be expanded from its present 13 items by adding two additional responsibilities as under:</p> <p>“14. Collation and dissemination of innovative construction methodologies, methods of financing, sources of financing including public-private partnerships and government subsidies with particular reference to extending affordable housing to the low income population.</p> <p>15. Provide necessary available information to the member country, where ever the APMCHUD conference is scheduled to happen.”</p>	This has been effected and a revised copy of the full version of the concept note is placed for reference as Annexure1 to this item.
	The Concept note on establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD' had outlined an action plan with key objectives. It was decided that the time frame for each of the key objective would be finalized after adoption of the proposed action plan by the Bureau.	The process has been initiated, and on adoption of the Minutes of the Second meeting in the present meeting (Third Meeting) of the Bureau, the time frame would be finalized for consideration in the next meeting of the Bureau.
	The Concept note on establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD' had outlined the proposed 'sources of finance' for the executive Secretariat of the Bureau. In this regard, it was decided that the emphasis at this stage is to operationalise the Secretariat to take up the activities with minimal expenditure support from the Government of India, and nevertheless inter-governmental contribution or sharing formulas could be discussed later based on prevalent methods in this regard.	A detailed proposal shall be put up after the details are collected in this regard.
	Towards making the web-site of the Bureau more enriched with information/details from the member countries of the Bureau, it was decided that each member country may provide a focal point officer to update their information content on a regular basis and send it to the executive secretariat for final updating in the web-site.	The agenda items and minutes of various meetings of the Bureau have been placed in the web-site of the Bureau. Further a communication as has also been addressed

		by the Chief Coordinator of the Bureau to all member countries seeking their support and contribution for enriching the web-site. (Copy placed as annexure 2 to this item.
4. Any other items with the permission of the Chair		
a) Holding of the 3rd Meeting of the Bureau:	<p>It was decided that the venue for the next meeting i.e the 3rd meeting of the Bureau is being kept as Delhi, unless any offer is received from the member country to host the same.</p> <p>It was further decided that the time available for the 2nd Conference of the APMCHUD to be held in Tehran being very short, the next meeting (3rd) of the Bureau may focus extensively on the organization of the Conference.</p>	<p>The Government of Iran has offered to host the 3rd meeting of the Bureau of APMCHUD, and accordingly, the meeting is scheduled in Tehran, Iran.</p> <p>A special focus is being extended on this aspect.</p>
b) Holding of the 2nd Conference of the APMCHUD in Tehran, Iran:	<p>It regard to the suitability of the proposal of Government of Iran to hold the 2nd Conference during the second half of May 2008, it was decided that the tentative date indicated would be put in the web-site as part of the minutes as well, so that any member country having any suggestion/comment may offer the same.</p> <p>Towards effectively organizing the 3rd Conference of APMCHUD at Tehran, the Bureau's secretariat, to provide the necessary available information to the organizers.</p>	<p>The minutes placed in the web-site.</p> <p>The necessary available information already being provided to the organizers by the Bureau's Secretariat.</p>
c) Holding of a PREPCOM by APMCHUD and UNESCAP before the next World Urban Forum:	<p>In regard to the desire of the UNESCAP to organize a Prepcom in association with APMCHUD, before the World Urban Forum scheduled to be held in 2008, it was decided that this could be organized at the sidelines of the 3rd Conference of the APMCHUD in Tehran, and accordingly the Bureau authorized the Chief Coordinator to coordinate with UN-ESCAP and the Government of Iran in this regard.</p>	<p>In this regard, a communication has been addressed by the Chief Coordinator of the Bureau to UNESCAP.</p>

The Bureau may like to note the actions taken and also provide suggestions/comments, if any.

**CONCEPT NOTE ON
Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the
Bureau of APMCHUD**

1. The Mandatory Framework of APMCHUD:

- a. Encourage and promote the strengthening of good urban governance in Asia Pacific and serve as a platform for advocacy of inclusive urban governance;
- b. Enhance role of gender in local government management for the development process, to be achieved by providing bigger role for women in local governance, particularly in areas related to slum eradication programmes;
- c. Champion and support innovative housing, urban development and land management practices in Asia-Pacific;
- d. Promote development of appropriate housing and low-cost construction technology for rural and urban housing;
- e. Facilitate South-South and international exchanges of expertise, research, experience and best practices in human settlements among private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in the region;
- f. Develop a better understanding of urban land dynamics that can lead to improved land tenure and to the growth of urban land markets in Asia-Pacific;
- g. Provide and promote a supportive environment for informal sector activities, including street vending, within national regulatory framework;
- h. Support relief and rehabilitation of shelter and human settlements development in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- i. Urge development partners and multi-lateral agencies to assist Asia Pacific countries on financing housing and urban infrastructure development;
- j. Promote capacity building efforts and encourage strong ties between research institutions to understand better the economic, legal and financial importance of housing urban development and urban land in Asia-Pacific;
- k. Encourage the collection and sharing of data and information that can improve the planning and management of urban development;
- l. Promote the institutionalization of a culture for urban planning including the preparation of urban strategic plans at both national and local authority level;

- m. Encourage the mobilization of domestic financial resources for housing and urban development and promote the necessary partnerships for attainment of this objective;
- n. Mainstream urban and other issues dealing with human settlements in the macro-economic frameworks and national budgets of Asia-Pacific governments;
- o. Provide a focal point to link relevant aspects of regional strategic initiatives as well as international processes and undertakings consistent with the agenda for sustainable urbanization;
- p. Encourage partnerships with private sector for shelter , urban infrastructure and services ;
- q. Undertake all other functions that will lead to the realization of the goals of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Housing and Human Settlements in Asia-Pacific adopted by this Conference;
- r. Explore possibilities of establishing a regional fund for housing finance for the poor;
- s. Encourage fast-track implementation of water and sanitation programmes to achieve the MDG targets;
- t. Promote broad-based participation, taking into account the issues related to youth, women, disabled, and vulnerable groups;
- u. Promote and encourage policies and programmes that are people centric and community based;
- v. Promote a sense of urban citizenship through fostering civic responsibilities.
- w. Address the negative impact of natural disasters and conflicts and the importance of social peace and harmony on the living conditions in towns and cities; and
- x. Promote integrated and sustainable rural and urban development to address the problems of urbanization

2. Vision and Mission

In order to make these Mandatory Framework operational, the Vision and Mission may be as follows:

1) VISION:

Promoting Sustainable Development of Human Settlements in Asia Pacific Region.

2) MISSION:

Global Knowledge hub and facilitator of human settlement development.

3. Executive secretariat

To implement the Vision, Mission and the mandate outlined in the Enhanced Framework and Delhi Declaration, an Executive Secretariat needs to be set-up.

The Executive Secretariat shall be responsible for:

1. Providing technical advice to the Conference, Bureau and member countries
2. Knowledge and documentation centre of APMCHUD
3. Carrying out technical administrative functions of APMCHUD & Bureau
4. Developing systems and processes for efficient working of APMCHUD
5. Representing, & signing official documentation as mandated
6. Developing a programme and campaigns for APMCHUD
7. Developing and Building Capacity for APMCHUD
8. Preparing background documents for members of Bureau
9. Maintaining a relationships with Governments, multilateral institutions, other support structure
10. Maintaining database on the areas of work of APMCHUD
11. Facilitating Technical assistance to member countries
12. Planning and arranging country or regional visits
13. Recruiting and sourcing expert services on urban development.
14. Collation and dissemination of innovative construction methodologies, methods of financing, sources of financing including public-private partnerships and government subsidies with particular reference to extending affordable housing to the low income population.
15. Provide necessary available information to the member country, where ever the APMCHUD conference is scheduled to happen.

To achieve this, following need to be set up and the structure of the Secretariat will be as follows:

I) STRUCTURE OF SECRETARIAT

a) Head of Secretariat

Head of the secretariat will be required to:

1. Supervise personnel, strategic and operational planning, the coordination of activities and the implementation of the operational plans of APMCHUD.
2. Liaise with Governments and multilateral organizations, the private sector and none-governmental organizational.
3. Develop & facilitate implementation of the APMCHUD programme of action.
4. Oversee and control budget expenditures and outputs
5. Facilitate, arrange and coordinate meetings of the APMCHUD/Bureau and keep records of all the meetings
6. Provide administrative support for meetings in respect of documentation, taking minutes and the distribution of the agenda
7. Plan and facilitate country and regional programmes of APMCHUD
8. Develop a reporting framework for APMCHUD and for the activities of the Bureau;
9. Develop and promote systems to effect cooperation and coordination between Governments, multilateral institutions and private sector.

b) Technical Experts

The incumbents will be responsible for the following:

1. Providing technical leadership to the secretariat
2. Developing and monitoring norms and standards to achieve best practices in urban development and the implementation of human settlements.
3. Rendering, developing and providing a framework for assessing the progress being made in the achievement objectives of APMCHUD
4. Supporting the development and implementation of the vision and objectives of APMCHUD by rendering research support.

c) Office Administrator

The day-to-day management of the office of the Executive Secretariat, incorporating the following:

- (i) The management of the financial and accounting systems in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations governing public service;
 - (ii) Financial planning and the preparation of fundraising proposal;
 - (iii) Providing basic administrative systems and support.
- d) **Support staff**
- (i) To provide secretarial assistance to the Head of secretariat
 - (ii) Making of travel, accommodation and other logical arrangements.
 - (iii) Handling and processing of subsistence and travel advances and claims;
 - (iv) Screening of calls and arranging meetings and keeping a diary for the Head of Secretariat;
 - (v) The typing of correspondence and the maintenance of a filing system and registry of all correspondence and documentation being handled by the Head of Secretariat.

II. Action plan

Key Objective	Output	Activities/Projects	Time-Frame	Indicators
Establishment & Manning of Secretariat	Establishment of office Recruitment of manpower	Office identification Seed capital Norms for selection of staff		
Develop financing mechanism for the activities of secretariat	A Corpus may be created	Liaise with UN-Habitat and other partners Opening a Bank account Liaising with donors and other potential sources of funding		An operative bank account liquidity or self-sufficiency
Develop a strategy to promote APMCHUD Mandate & roles of the secretariat	Operationalisation of the Framework of Implementation and the Delhi Declaration Approval of an effective communication strategy. Ratification of roles by APMCHUD	Visits to the sub-regions and countries Produce CDROM & Printed literature Produce and disseminate Memoranda Arrange meeting with Embassies and UN-Habitat Set Up and maintain a website including a journal		Recognition at international forum and support by international organizations and institutions Mainstreaming of the framework of Delhi Declaration by member countries
Build and enhance the capacity of APMCHUD to affect global and continental government policies	An APMCHUD strategy perspective on issue sustainable development	Develop a database of research institution and their capacities. Develop perspective on issue of relevance and priority. Strengthen South-South cooperation for exchanges in knowledge, expertise and ideas.		Close cooperation with Governments

III. Sources of Finance

1. Seed capital from UN-HABITAT & member countries. The procedure and amount of contribution from the member countries shall be decided in the next bureau meeting based on the prevalent sharing principles and the approved estimates.
2. Funds from co-operating partners, including ASEAN, SAARC, other relevant UN agencies, the Asian Development Bank, and donors, to support APMCHUD efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in this Declaration

**Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing & Urban Development
(APMCHUD)**

Executive Secretariat, Bureau of APMCHUD
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Chief Coordinator

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D.O. No. APMCHUD/Bureau/2/2007

December 10, 2007

Excellency,

As you are kindly aware, the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) had pronounced the Delhi Declaration, in pursuance of which, the Bureau of APMCHUD had established an Interim Secretariat initially at Delhi. In its Second Meeting held at Amman, Jordan during 27-28th October, 2007, the Bureau has firmed up the establishment of the Executive Secretariat in Delhi, which initially would be based on the support of the Government of India. A number of initiatives are also underway to seek the support of the multi-lateral Institutions in enabling the Executive secretariat to perform its role effectively. The contact details of the Executive Secretariat are as under:

Executive Secretariat

Bureau of APMCHUD

HUDCO Bhawan, 5th Floor

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)

India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road

New Delhi 110 003, India

e-mail: apmchud.bureau@gmail.com

We are also happy to inform that during the Second Meeting of the Bureau at Amman, the Chairperson of the Bureau had launched the web-site of the APMCHUD developed by the Secretariat (www.apmchud.com). The web site provides details on the establishment of APMCHUD and the various activities being taken up. The agenda and minutes of the various meetings have also been placed on the web-site.

The Bureau in its second meeting at Amman had specifically decided to request all the Member Countries of APMCHUD to contribute to the web-site information and details through the Executive Secretariat for the mutual benefit of all members. We look forward to your active support and contribution in this regard.

With kind regards,

(SUNIL KUMAR SINGH)

Item No.3: Status on seeking support from the multi-lateral Institutions for the APMCHUD Initiative – a report

Towards seeking the support for the initiative of APMCHUD, a communication was addressed by the Chairperson of the Bureau of APMCHUD. In continuation of the same, a meeting was organized at Delhi by the Chief Coordinator of the Bureau, in which the local representatives of such Institutions in Delhi, covering DFID, KfW, UNDP/UNEP, World Bank, ESCAP, ADB and SAARC were invited. The meeting was participated by the representatives of UNDP/UNEP and ADB. During the meeting, the support of the multi-lateral Institutions was sought for the setting up of the Executive Secretariat.

A copy of the minutes of the meeting is placed as annexure. This activity would be continued and the response of the Institutions would be placed before the Bureau in its forthcoming meetings.

The Bureau may like to note the above, and provide suggestions/comments if any.

Annexure 1

Minutes of the meeting with the Representatives of Multilateral Institutions based at Delhi in regard to mutual cooperation on housing and urban development issues and strengthening of the Executive Secretariat of the APMCHUD

Venue : Office of the Joint Secretary (Housing) & Chief Coordinator, Bureau of the APMCHUD

Date & Time : December 11, 2007 at 11.00 AM

Present :

- Mr. S.K. Singh, Joint Secretary (Housing), Govt. of India & Chief Coordinator, Bureau of the APMCHUD
- Mr Michael Green, Urban Development Specialist, India Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank (ADB), New Delhi
- Mr. Ashok Malhotra, Programme Associate, UNDP, New Delhi
- Dr. P. Jayapal, ED, HUDCO
- Mr. Rajesh Goel, DC, HUDCO

At the outset, the Chief Coordinator and Joint Secretary (Housing) briefed the background on the establishment of APMCHUD and also the constitution of its Bureau of APMCHUD. He also informed on the 1st and 2nd meetings of the Bureau held at Nairobi in April 2007 and at Amman, Jordan during October, 2007. He also explained further about the setting up of the Executive Secretariat as envisaged in the Delhi Declaration, pronounced subsequent to the 1st Asia Pacific Conference of Ministers' of Housing and Urban Development in the Asia Pacific Region held at New Delhi during December 2006. He indicated that the Bureau of APMCHUD has further decided that the Executive Secretariat, to undertake the identified functions, would be initially supported by the Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and the Housing and Urban Development

Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) with skeletal staff and logistic arrangements. The Bureau had recognized that such a major initiative, to progress well, would need, in addition to concerted efforts, a significant cooperation from the International / Regional Institutions/Programmes, and accordingly decided to seek cooperation, guidance and support for the effective functioning of the Executive Secretariat. He indicated that, in accordance with this decision, the Chairperson had addressed a communication to various multilateral Institutions. With this background, the Chief Coordinator sought the suggestions and views of the Institutions for extending personnel support in the form of Consultants to the Executive Secretariat or any other support support which these Institutions would be able to contribute towards making the Executive Secretariat of the APMCHUD to perform its role effectively in the Region. The Chief Coordinator further indicated that elaborate details on the APMCHUD initiative and its activities are available on its web-site (www.apmchud.com).

Appreciating the initiative of APMCHUD to collectively address the challenges of the housing and urban development sector, the representative from UNDP indicated that UNDP has been actively engaged in supporting major activities in the housing and urban development sector in the Indian context like the JNNURM programme, etc. He indicated that the current work programme of UNDP is till December 2007 and the new programme would be launched from January 1, 2008 onwards. He further indicated that any assistance, association and cooperation at the Regional level is generally dealt by the UNDP headquarters and accordingly, the issue of extending support to the strengthening of the Executive secretariat would be taken up with its Head Quarters. The Chief Coordinator also requested the UNDP representative for facilitating support from other Institutions of UN System as well.

The Representative from ADB, India Resident Mission welcomed the initiative as a major step towards addressing the housing and urban development challenges in the Asia Pacific region. He indicated that he would appropriately take up the issue of providing support to the Executive Secretariat with the ADB Head Quarters.

Thanking the representatives of UNDP and ADB, the Chief Coordinator indicated that their responses once received after consideration by their respective Head Quarters' would be placed before the Bureau of APMCHUD in its forthcoming meeting.

**Item No. 4: Status of preparations for the 2nd Conference of APMCHUD at
Tehran**

The Second Conference of the APMCHUD is scheduled to be held during the second half of May 2008 in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In view of the same, during deliberations in the Second meeting of the Bureau, it was decided to give a special focus to the status of preparations for the same in its Third meeting of the Bureau.

Accordingly, the Government of Islamic republic of Iran would present the status of preparations for comments, suggestions and guidance from the Bureau.

Item No.5: Any other items with the permission of the Chair.

Background Papers

The Delhi Declaration on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)

We, the Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for housing and urban development, meeting in New Delhi, India, on 15th –16th December 2006, to consider the challenge of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific;

Recognizing the urgency of the global shelter challenge as emphasized in paragraph 56(m) of the World Summit 2005 outcome document, on the need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility;

Welcoming with satisfaction the recognition of the shelter challenge at the same level as water, energy, health and biodiversity in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) declaration and subsequent the focus by the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) on water, sanitation and human settlement, as the first entry point in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and delivering the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Recalling the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Istanbul in 1996 and the Habitat Agenda which addressed the two themes of equal global importance: “Adequate shelter for all” and “Sustainable human settlements development”;

Recalling further the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which recognized that the process of urbanization is intrinsic to economic and social development;

Encouraged by the successes as well as the catalytic roles other Ministerial bodies have played in their respective regions;

Noting that the Asian-Pacific Region is emerging as a major contributor to the global urban transition, holding 61 per cent of the global population and 43% of the world urban population;

Noting also that this rapid urbanization is an irreversible process that poses challenges far beyond the management capacity of governments, local authorities and other institutions, but also offers opportunities that need to be harnessed;

Aware that the region is gradually growing into a power-house of the world economy accounting for over half of the world's growth since 2001, much of which being domestically driven;

Cognizant of the fact that poverty in terms low income; poor health and education, low access to basic services, deprivation in knowledge and communications, is widespread in the Region;

Cognizant also that a sizeable segment of urban population in the Region is living in slums;

Cognizant further that the region has one of the poorest coverage in terms of sanitation among all regions;

Conscious of the linkages and the interdependencies between rural and urban areas and the importance of balanced territorial development strategies to promote synergies between towns, cities and their rural hinterlands;

Realizing that sustainable housing and urban development has a crucial bearing on the quality of life of all people in terms of their economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being;

Aware of the fact that the growing urban poverty and its increasing incidence among women require gender sensitive approaches to sustainable urban development;

Recognizing that the rich diversity in culture, tradition, language, religion and civilization in our region is the collective strength which can be used for constructive partnership for exchange and for the achievement of the common goal of sustainable housing and urban development;

Recognising further our common pursuit of social development, which aims at social justice, solidarity, harmony and equality within and among countries and their implications for human settlement development;

Noting that political will, decentralization, good governance and the empowerment of national and local authorities as well as the adoption of inclusive processes of decision making are fundamental to addressing the housing and urbanization challenges in the Asia and Pacific Region;

Noting further the close linkage between rural and urban areas, wherein the need to promote urban amenities in rural areas is critical for balanced development;

Noting also the special circumstances of Pacific island nations and small island states that require a different perspective in urban management and planning;

Cognizant of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation of Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific:

1. Express profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government of India for the efforts made in convening and hosting this inaugural conference leading to the launch of the Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD);
2. Commend the Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) for her efforts in facilitating and jointly convening this conference with Government of India;

3. Appreciate the contribution of participating governments and all other co-operating Partners to make this conference productive and successful;
4. Appreciate further the contribution of participating governments and all other co-operating Partners, including the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
5. Commend further the partnership between UN-HABITAT and Asian Development Bank to bring significant new investments in Water and Sanitation together to the urban poor in the Asia - Pacific region to support the achievement of the MDGs;
6. Appreciate also the commendable efforts made by the participating institutions that contributed effectively to the deliberations of this Ministerial Conference;
7. Decide to establish the Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) as the consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of Housing and Urban Development in the Asia-Pacific Region;
8. Decide that APMCHUD will, *inter alia*, and as guided by the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific:
 - a. Serve as a forum and network to discuss the urban challenge at the continental level and regional level as a basis for national, provincial and local level strategies and policies and as a focus for the discussion of the habitat agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals and Targets;
 - b. Encourage and promote the strengthening of good urban governance in Asia - Pacific and serve as a platform for advocacy of inclusive urban governance;
 - c. Enhance the role of gender in local government management for the development process, to be achieved by providing bigger role

for women in local governance, particularly in areas related to slum eradication programmes;

- d. Champion and Support Innovative Housing, Urban Development and Land Management Practices in Asia-Pacific;
- e. Promote development of appropriate housing and low-cost construction technology for rural and urban housing;
- f. Facilitate south-south and international exchanges of expertise, research, experience and best practices in human settlements among private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in the region;
- g. Develop a better understanding of urban land dynamics that can lead to improved land tenure and to the growth of urban land markets in Asia-Pacific;
- h. Provide and promote a supportive environment for informal sector activities, including street vending, within national regulatory framework;
- i. Support relief and rehabilitation of shelter and human settlements development in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- j. Urge development partners and multi-lateral agencies to assist Asia-Pacific countries on financing housing and urban infrastructure development;
- k. Promote capacity building efforts and encourage strong ties between research institutions to better understand the economic, legal and financial importance of housing urban development and urban land in Asia-Pacific;
- l. Encourage the collection and sharing of data and information that can improve the planning and management of urban development;
- m. Promote the institutionalisation of a culture for urban planning including the preparation of urban strategic plans at both national and local levels;

- n. Encourage the mobilization of domestic financial resources for housing and urban development and promote the necessary partnership for attainment of this objective;
- o. Mainstream urban and other issues dealing with human settlements in the macro-economic frameworks and national budgets of Asia-Pacific governments;
- p. Provide a focal point to link relevant aspects of regional strategic initiatives as well as international processes and undertakings consistent with the agenda for sustainable urbanisation;
- q. Encourage partnerships with private sector for shelter , urban infrastructure and services ;
- r. Undertake all other functions that will lead to the realization of the goals of the enhanced framework of implementation for housing and human settlements in Asia-Pacific adopted by this conference;
- s. Explore possibilities of establishing a regional fund in the context of housing finance for the poor;
- t. Encourage fast-track implementation of water and sanitation programmes to achieve the MDG's specific targets;
- u. Promote broad-based participation, taking into account the issues related to youth, women, disabled, and vulnerable groups;
- v. Promote and encourage policies and programmes that are people-centric and community-based;
- w. Promote a sense of urban citizenship through fostering civic responsibilities.
- x. Address the negative impact of natural disasters and conflicts and the importance of social peace and harmony on the living conditions in towns and cities; and,
- y. Promote integrated and sustainable rural and urban development to address the problems of urbanization.

9. Decide further that APMCHUD will establish links with other inter-ministerial conferences working on issues related to the Habitat Agenda, including, but not limited to, matters concerning finance, water supply and sanitation, local government, land and infrastructure;
10. Resolve that APMCHUD may initially be composed of the following organs:
- The Biennial Ministerial Conference,
 - The Bureau, and
 - The Secretariat
11. Resolve also that the Biennial Ministerial Conference shall be composed of Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development and shall normally meet after every two years to consult and review progress on the promotion of sustainable development of Human settlements in Asia-Pacific;
12. Decide that the host and the Chair of this inaugural conference, India, shall be the first Chair of the Bureau and shall serve until the next biennial conference;
13. Confirm that the Bureau established at this inaugural conference shall serve as the first Bureau of the Asia - Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) with its members being Ministers representing:
- South Asia, represented by Republic of India as Chair of the Bureau, and Islamic Republic of Iran;
 - South East Asia: represented by Malaysia, and also as the Rapporteur;
 - East Asia: represented by Peoples Republic of China;
 - North and Central Asia: represented by Azerbaijan;
 - Western Asia: represented by Jordan;

- Pacific and Oceania: represented by Papua New-Guinea;
14. Decide that the Bureau shall be elected by the Biennial Conference of Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development and shall hold office until the next conference;
 15. Request the Bureau to convene within four months to identify the modalities of establishing the Secretariat and other organs. In the meantime, an interim Secretariat may be established in India as soon as possible;
 16. Request further that upon finalization of the modalities of establishment of the Secretariat and other organs, the same may be put as an Appendix to this Declaration;
 17. Resolve that APMCHUD meets every two years, preferably three months before the sessions of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT;
 18. Request the Asia - Pacific countries and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to assist the Bureau in its efforts to establish the Secretariat;
 19. Call upon all co-operating partners, including ASEAN, SAARC, Pacific Islands Forum, ECO, other relevant UN agencies, the Asian Development Bank, and donors, to support APMCHUD efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in this Declaration;
 20. Request the Asia-Pacific countries to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in countries by establishing Coordinating Committees for the sector, and giving a high prominence to the challenges of sustainable urbanisation;
 21. Recommend that the member countries of the Asia - Pacific assist the United Nations in its current efforts to revive the United Nations Habitat

and Human Settlements Foundation as a mechanism for promoting slum upgrading and other pro-poor housing and infrastructure finance;

22. Request the Bureau of APMCHUD to inform the relevant regional, international and UN agencies and programmes on the creation of APMCHUD;
23. Commit ourselves to apprise our respective Heads of States and Governments on the outcome of this conference and take appropriate actions to implement this declaration
24. Welcome the offer by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the next Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development at a date to be communicated later.

ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC

I. Overview

1. Rapid economic growth is one of the most striking features of Asian development. The impact of economic growth is vividly manifested in contemporary urban development in Asia. Today in many parts of Asia and the Pacific, urbanisation is being accelerated by a new global economy that is literally changing the face of the continent. Though there is a continuing strong progress towards the reduction of income poverty, performance against many social indicators in Asia is mixed. Asia has to confront the reality that more than two-thirds of the world's poor live in Asia, and that the benefits of strong economic growth are not shared equally. In the Asia-Pacific region alone, more than 650 million people live on one dollar-a-day or less. This accounts for 65% of the world's ultra-poor. Asia also is home to half the world's slum population. And despite economic growth and the contribution of cities in this growth, the slum population is rising.

2. With half of humanity living in towns and cities, the world has now entered a new urban era. Cities create much of the pollution that causes climate change. The urban poor are particularly vulnerable to disasters. This makes many cities giant disaster traps. New thinking is needed so that countries in the Asia-Pacific region regard and treat their cities as living eco-systems.

3. These concerns have been raised at the national, regional and international levels to improve the lives of people in cities and towns. Against this background:

- The 1994 *Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)* recognised that “The process of urbanisation is intrinsic to economic and social development ...” and recommended “... to foster a more balanced distribution of population by promoting sustainable development in both major sending and receiving areas.” The ICPD

clearly underlined that “Such development should be ecologically sound and promote economic, social and gender equity”.

- In 1996 the UN-HABITAT Summit in Istanbul and the 2001 Istanbul + 5 review Summit called on Governments to take the measures necessary to ensure adequate housing for all, alleviate urban poverty and promote overall social development.
- The Heads of State and Government, in September 2000, in New York committed themselves to the *Millennium Declaration*. It provides an integrated development framework. Goal 7 covering Environmental sustainability addresses the challenge of housing and urban development. Within a wider framework of social and economic interventions, it seeks the “improvement of the lives of slum dwellers” implying access to safe water, sanitation, security of tenure, durability of housing, and sufficient living area as well as social services such as health and education.
- Specifically, Target 10 of the *Millennium Development Goal No. 7* urges UN Member States to “Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”. Target 11 aims to “Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.”
- Further, at the World Summit in 2005, world leaders agreed to the following: “In pursuance of our commitment to achieve sustainable development, we further resolve: 56 (m): To achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility;”

4. These international responses to the challenges posed by rapid economic growth and urbanisation, coupled with a large proportion of population living in

slums, called for joint collaboration between the UN-HABITAT and the Government of India to organize the First Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference of Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) under the theme, “*A Vision for Sustainable Urbanisation in the Asia-Pacific by 2020*”.

5. The Conference strongly endorsed the vision of achieving Sustainable Urbanisation by 2020 in the region. The deliberations and recommendations have resulted in the development of this enhanced framework for the implementation of programmes for achieving this vision in Asia and the Pacific.

While it was seen as important to agree on general principles and concepts. There is a need for individual countries to consider the recommendations made by the Conference based on each country’s particular context related to scale of population, level of urbanisation, level of prosperity, environmental situation, political and administrative arrangements and level of development. Considering the diversity in this vast region, including small island nations, each country may have to evolve and adopt specific practices and policies adapted to their unique local context.

The Conference welcomed the comprehensive approach towards integrated and sustainable rural and urban development, as outlined by H.E. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, President of the Republic of India, in his address during the inauguration of the Conference. This approach is also reflected in the recommendations of this enhanced framework.

II. Urbanisation challenges and opportunities

6. The urbanisation level in Asia will increase from about 40 percent today to about 60 percent in the next two decades. Nearly 90 percent of the population growth will be absorbed in the urban centres of Asia.

7. While economic growth in Asia has progressed well, and made it much richer than ever before, this growth is contingent upon the way in which Asian cities are managed, and how the urban poor are cared for. The current growth pattern has

also brought about enormous disparities across and within nations. Asia must face up to the fact that more than two-thirds of the world's poor live in the region, and that the benefits of strong economic growth are not shared equally. In the Asia-Pacific region alone, more than 650 million people live on one dollar-a-day or less. This accounts for 65% of the world's ultra-poor.

8. Along with the prosperity that globalisation brings to Asian urban economies, there are associated problems of poor infrastructure, a lack of basic services, increasing pollution, and growing numbers of poor people. It is feared that the rapid economic growth will bring about a worsening of environmental indicators, with more air pollution, and less groundwater availability.

9. Notwithstanding the above, urbanisation can be a positive development process if well managed and controlled with equitable access to land, adequate shelter as well as the provision of basic services. Political will, decentralisation, good governance and the empowerment of national and local authorities as well as the adoption of inclusive processes for mobilising local resources and judicious resource-allocation and decision making are fundamental to addressing the urbanisation challenge in Asia and the Pacific. In a rapidly urbanising region, the promotion of balanced and sustainable urbanisation requires, more than ever, strategic, integrated planning, capacity building, as well as strong regional co-operation, knowledge sharing, networking and monitoring.

10. The framework aims to identify and suggest measures for more effective urban development policies and strategies in Asia-Pacific so as to guide the actions of all stakeholders (government and non-government) and help steer them towards the achievement of the common urban vision. The framework also aims to identify linkages between land policies and urbanisation.

III. Pro-poor urban governance and planning

11. The key challenge is improving urban governance and management through an enhanced local investment climate that promotes economic growth and increases employment.

12. To redress the most rapid urbanisation in the world, sustain high economic growth, eradicating poverty and inequity, requires reinvigorating urban planning, working with the private sector, embedding a pro-poor policy orientation, inclusiveness and empowerment.

13. It is necessary to seek rapidly responsive and sustainable modalities of providing shelter, infrastructure services and means of livelihood. It is also necessary to enhance the role of city and community leadership, ensure civic involvement and private sector engagement.

14. These principles will be realised through effective decentralisation policies and mechanisms that streamline inter-governmental relations, strategic integrated planning harnessing a full engagement of stakeholders and forging realistic public- private-people partnerships.

15. Enhancing local investment climate will require systems and institutional mechanisms that nurture a partnership between public, private and civil sectors in service delivery, infrastructural development, as well as in producing means of livelihood. Similarly, the regulatory and oversight frameworks, which allow the private and community sectors to generate means of livelihood will have to be attended to and realigned. The capacity of city administrators will need to be enhanced to capitalize on the positive aspects of globalization and mitigate its negative effects.

16. Inclusive processes for decision-making, which involve civil society must be encouraged and promoted. Particular emphasis must be placed on the involvement of women, the poor and disadvantaged groups through involving them in decision making process, planning programme development, implementation and monitoring.

17. The lack of institutional capacity, to deal with the development needs of the urban poor, remains a severe constraint and bottleneck in many Asian countries. This is particularly the case with urban local authorities, which have the direct responsibility for the management of cities and address the special requirement of the urban poor. National governments should develop a proactive framework for national support to local administrations. At the same time, local governments

need to act independently to improve local management and enhance capacity, capability, efficiency, accountability and responsiveness to needs of the urban poor, within the national framework and performance benchmarking.

18. The issues of the human security, natural disasters, and conflicts have become important in Asia in recent times as they affect the poor the most. We need concerted efforts in mitigating natural disasters such as typhoons, cyclones, floods, landslides, Tsunami and earthquakes.

19. In a few countries ongoing civil conflicts have gravely affected on development and increased vulnerability of urban poor due to rapid demographic movement. For effective reconstruction process and capacity building in post-conflict situation, special attention will need to be put in place, taking into account the lack of governance and pressure to governments to divert resources for social development programmes.

20. Increasing urban sprawl as well as the social and economic needs of the region's cities call for an urgent need to enhance the planning function through a rapidly responsive intervention at all levels and taking into account the growth in fringe areas, peri-urban areas and rural-urban continuum to deploy it as an effective instrument of urban governance.

21. A new culture of planning process should be inclusive and provide a valid space for urban poor livelihoods and their living. Viewed in this light, planning is about getting a comprehensive, intensive utilisation of land and promoting innovative policies for formal access to lands by the poor, such as land sharing, land pooling, equality land and property rights to women.

22. Planning needs to be guided by innovative, imaginative, entrepreneurial principles of land management and administration. The process should establish pro-poor planning standards and building and construction regulatory framework that overcomes the rigidities often characterizing urban development and delivery of services especially for the urban poor population.

23. The dominance of the master plan seems to pervade a number of countries in the region. The master plan is projected to be a key official document for planned development of urban centres. The context of rapid economic growth

has made urban planning to be quite challenging. It is necessary to adopt innovative planning tools to accommodate growth dynamics of cities.

24. Urban centres are the drivers of economic development, but often have limited resources to meet the growing demand for infrastructure and services especially for urban poor. However, questions still remain whether the needs of the poor are met or not. The solution to this lies in forging realistic public-private-people partnerships.

25. There is an urgent need to promote a sense of urban citizenship through fostering civic responsibilities and to adopt a 'Citizen Charter' in each city that provides a sense of inclusiveness and commitment by all, and that includes all social aspects of urban development.

26. Local institutional systems, including those dealing with regulatory functions, socialization, capacity building, livelihoods and appreciation of social and cultural values, conflict resolution, safety and security, need to be preserved and consolidated.

27. Urban renewal and urban development processes should pay particular attention to the needs of the urban poor and not resort to relocation without alternative. It should promote preservation and conservation of cultural heritage in cities.

28. A pro-poor orientation needs to be emphasized, which includes: an enabling condition for the poor, increased space for engagement, empowerment as well as the prevalence of inclusive systems. The poor contribute richly to the social economic development and GDP.

29. The issue of small island states with shortage of land, fragile eco systems, resources, fragmented nature of the populations, high urban migration, sea transport constraints and lack of viable social and public infrastructure, affect urban governance and planning responsive to all specially the poor. This calls for a different perspective in urban management and planning that is responsive to the particular needs of the small island states and countries in the Asia Pacific Region.

30. Vision 2020: considering the prospects of vision 2020, governance and planning processes should aim at achieving cities without slums cities which are environmentally sustainable, liveable economically viable especially for urban poor.

IV. Slum Upgrading and Prevention

31. All slum upgrading and prevention activities undertaken in the region should be within the overall context of MDG Goal 7 Target 11.

32. The policy, projects and programmes at regional, national and local levels shall be guided by the following recommendations.

33. While it may be useful to agree on general principals and concepts for slum upgrading and prevention, each country and city may have to evolve and adopt specific practices and policies adapt to their unique local context.

34. Governments are to facilitate comprehensive assessments of slum living conditions, in the region and make information widely available and updated it regularly. UN-HABITAT and relevant local, national and regional institutions should be engaged in this process.

35. Governments at all levels should demonstrate strong and consistent political will which is critical to address the problem of slums and squatter settlements and will help in launching programme and policy initiatives at national and regional level. This is to be translated into formulation and adoption of a national policy on slum upgrading and prevention by 2008, inclusive of well-defined national and city targets.

36. Further, with a view to slum prevention, they should implement progressive policy reforms to facilitate the setting up of proper urban planning and land regulation and management systems that take into consideration different forms of land tenure; the provision of affordable and accessible land and housing; the improved coverage of water supply and sanitation services; appropriate institutional frameworks; and equitable economic policies.

37. Governments should not consider upgrading as a mere technical operation, implemented in a top-down manner. As part of a rights-based approach to

housing, governments and other implementing actors should involve slum residents and their organisations through consultation and participation in the formulation, decision-making and implementation of projects, programmes and strategies for slum upgrading. Where needed, community participation should include capacity building for empowerment since slum dwellers are the first right holders. The objective of upgrading should be to integrate slum dwellers and the mainstream through rehabilitation and ensuring participation in all sectors.

38. Governments have to ensure that slum upgrading and prevention programmes provide equal opportunities for women and make them active participants in the entire process.

39. Governments in the region, multilateral and bilateral organisations and all stakeholders in the urban sector should focus on socio-economic development, such as employment generation, micro-finance and community-based credit schemes, while undertaking upgrading and prevention measures and programmes and should equally address the needs of women, youth and the disabled.

40. Governments should facilitate delivery of affordable serviced land and housing for low-income groups in suitable locations in order to prevent new slum formation. Land should be made available to individual families, communities, non-profit organisations, cooperatives, and the private sector. Housing delivery to be promoted should include different tenure forms such as affordable rental housing. Also, employer-assisted housing schemes, including sites and services with access to finance, insurance, and government incentives, should be considered as alternatives where possible.

41. Governments should explore possible public-private partnership to implement slum improvement and/or redevelopment projects particularly in high land value locations. Land use planning in such projects needs to be balanced between housing space and social and commercial infrastructure in order to avoid further densification/overcrowding and displacement. While redevelopment based on high-rise buildings can be a solution in certain socio-economic contexts, it can lead to a number of problems due to life-style issues, affordability, and

infrastructure and maintenance constraints. These should be taken into consideration by governments when initiating such partnership arrangements. Above all, such initiatives should not be at the cost of slum dwellers' access to land and services.

42. Based on the principle that water is life, and sanitation is dignity, coverage of water supply and sanitation services should be made available by governments or responsible agencies to slum dwellers irrespective of their tenure status.

43. Governments could use land as a resource in the process of slum upgrading and redevelopment projects to mobilize land value potential for generating revenues to cross-subsidise housing and infrastructure. They should explore possibilities for setting up a social equity fund from the realisation of such projects.

44. Governments should provide security of tenure to informal dwellers as the overarching condition for success and sustainability of upgrading; avoid eviction, and if resettlement is inevitable, they should find a negotiated solution based on slum dwellers right to adequate housing.

45. Housing finance is key to slum upgrading and prevention; governments should put into place legislative and fiduciary mechanisms to facilitate provision of affordable finance including micro finance and mortgages.

46. Governments should promote self-help groups and cooperative housing initiatives, especially for women, so that ownership stays in the community to avoid, *inter alia*, gentrification/sale of housing by beneficiaries.

47. Governments should scale up projects to large scale programmes at city and country levels facing up to the double challenge of upgrading existing slums and preventing future slums. However, governments in countries emerging from armed conflict or natural disasters should do upgrading progressively starting from quick impact projects that are attractive to the beneficiaries and include income generation opportunities.

48. UN-HABITAT, UNESCAP, ADB and other relevant organisations should play a key role in compiling and analysing country experiences in the region and disseminate them to countries. For slum prevention, they should carry out studies

anticipating urban population increase in order to meet the challenge of slum prevention, particularly the need of housing for the weaker and migrating population and persuade policy-makers to adopt long-term housing plans, integrating the economically weaker sections into the mainstream, and provide guidelines.

49. Governments should build capacity for implementation of upgrading and prevention measures, including human and technical resources, where necessary through collaborative efforts with development partners. Further, governments should recognise and promote good cultural and traditional values that can enhance the livelihoods of slum dwellers.

50. Governments should strive to improve living conditions in rural areas and make rural centres more attractive to reduce population pressure on large cities and to promote well-functioning rural-urban linkages.

V. Delivery of Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation in the Asia-Pacific Region

51. Asia Pacific is a region of great diversity in all its aspects - systems of administration, culture and availability of water. There can, therefore, be no one blueprint approach for the full provision of safe water and sanitation services to the people of each country. There are multiple routes to match each different set of circumstances particularly at the micro level.

52. However, the fundamental premise on which progress can be made is that ensuring the delivery of water and sanitation services is squarely the responsibility of each national government in Asia Pacific Region. But to be successful they will need, above all, determined leadership and the political will that is absolutely necessary to maintain the commitment that will be needed.

53. The burden associated with inadequate coverage and access and of inefficient service delivery falls heaviest on the most vulnerable and the poorest. Lack of access to safe sanitation affects Women the most not only in terms of their health but also their dignity and safety, particularly in areas of conflict or those affected by disasters. Women and girls especially find their productivity

impaired by their social roles and the costly and time-consuming tasks of collection and storage of water. Because of the lack of access and the poor quality of services, low tariffs often do not help the poor, who are less likely to be connected in the first place and rely on informal vendors.

54. Inadequate and ill directed financial flows together with poor technical and management capacities can and do frustrate otherwise positive policy initiatives and cripple water and sanitation service delivery. Further, restoration and up gradation of water sanitation services destroyed by conflict and natural disaster require special attention.

55. Enhancement of investment in water /sanitation services including government allocation, use of institutional finance (including banks), microfinance, and people's own resources.

56. Equal sharing of resources amongst various stakeholders including industrial and commercial establishments (who often benefit from perverse subsidies and low tariffs) and with poor communities (who suffer from high costs in terms of time and money from unreliable supplies of expensive water) based on bold increases in tariff levels with generous and targeted subsidies for poor families, with cost recovery for sustainability.

57. Provision of sufficient resources and incentives for operation and maintenance including continued subsidies from central funds to local bodies/service providers who are not able to generate enough resources from consumers in their areas (applicable to both urban and rural situations where there are large numbers of poor people and fewer high payers including industrial and commercial establishments).

58. Investment in training and skill development at all levels of local service. A case can also be made for the capacity building of local elected representatives (mayors, members of locally elected bodies at town and village level) who can only discharge their obligations with proper information and some subject knowledge.

59. Civil Society organizations not only champion the cause of poor people but also introduce innovations in technical designs, management systems (including

the role of women's groups in traditionally male bastions such as technical maintenance of public water and sanitation facilities) and accountability measures such as social audits. Specific resources allocated to civil society organizations as would be a big step forward, particularly in outreach to poor communities.

60. Public disclosure of water and sanitation budgets and the regular scrutiny of expenditure is part of an accountability mechanism, which can help to direct resources to the right places (such as slum settlements) and to combat corruption.

61. Often it is the problems of big metropolitan centers that occupy the attention of policy makers and service providers. Secondary towns and peri-urban areas receive disproportionately small amounts of time, attention and resources should adequately provided.

62. There is a need to create fiscal and legal measures (such as right to information) and systems that would enhance better disclosure. It should be applied to all government departments, public utilities or contracted private operators at other service providers.

63. Better information will make it more possible to measure performance, address problems and serve consumers according to their specific requirements. Civil society organizations can play an important part in the generation of accurate information (including mapping) about water and sanitation facilities, not just their availability but also their usage and their impact on the lives of poor people.

64. The sustainability of improved delivery hinges on institutional change, but the record of delayed projects or initiatives requires special mechanisms to expedite projects.

65. Confusion in policy development, administration and accountability between government departments with a stake in safe water and sanitation provision including the ministries of health, urban development, water resources and possibly others is not unusual and more likely in rapidly growing urban

conglomerations. Practical steps to improve the situation could include the following:

- As far as national policy and planning is concerned, it is important to cut across different types of contexts – from big metropolitan centres to secondary towns and peri-urban areas.
- In order to avoid harmful environmental consequences such as water logging and mixing of sewage with storm water it is important to plan water and sanitation projects in an integrated manner and not sequentially.

66. Policies relating to land tenure and occupancy rights in ‘unrecognized’ slums in urban conglomerations sometimes result in very large number of poor people being left out of water and sanitation projects. Suitable measures needs to be addressed to ensure great exclusivity.

67. Use of appropriate technology for water quality, solid waste management and including promotion of green technologies for sustainable environment management.

68. Use of mapping tools like GIS to map coverage, resources and monitoring of quality and access to environmental services.

69. While the primary responsibility for water and sanitation services is that of governments and appropriate local authority there is enough experience to show that they will need partnerships with others such as civil society organizations, the private sector and regional knowledge center to be able to reach the levels of coverage, especially among poor communities that will be necessary to reach the ambitious objective of full coverage.

70. Three imperatives are particularly important:

- The need for a concerted campaign over the next five years to raise general awareness (of problems and solutions) about issues concerning water, sanitation, hygiene and the environment and generate the drive and momentum to change policies and governance practices, builds community empowerment and sector capacity.

- The need for a multi stakeholder approach in each country to achieve synergies and a united effort.
- The need for active sharing of information and experience across the region as part of a region wide initiative.

71. Above all, sanitation provision should be an overriding theme.

VI. Financing sustainable urbanisation

72. The following views and recommendations are related to financing sustainable urbanization. There is a need to consider the following recommendations based on different context of each country on scale of population, level of urbanization, level of prosperity, environmental situation, political and administrative arrangements and level of development

Challenges and Opportunities

73. Compared to other continents, community and civil society movements in Asia Pacific region are relatively strong. There is a strong movement of self help groups in several countries. Women are playing a key role in civil society movements. But many of them operate at small scale.

74. Over half of the world's inadequate housing units are located in Asia-Pacific – at roughly 500 million units. The housing sector is also severely constrained by lack of adequate and appropriate housing finance systems. In fact, Asia's mortgage sector is one of the least developed in the world. In Asia, many countries' mortgage financing per year is less than 2 per cent of GDP.

75. The majority of the poor in Asia rely on non-mortgage based financing for housing, partly through shelter microfinance and community funding. Several governments in the region have made significant interventions through a variety of measures to reach out to low income households.

76. Many of the cities in the region are not creditworthy. There is a paradox of rich citizens and poor city governments. But there are several innovations the region is undertaking in improving the governance and bankability of cities. Many cities are creating world class infrastructure to promote economic growth. Similarly, some countries have supported local government reforms related to:

enhancing accountability, creditworthiness and own revenues; creation of incentive funds to promote reforms; streamlining of inter-governmental transfers; encouraging market based investments; and, creation of municipal bond markets.

77. The Conference acknowledges that there is a large finance gap in housing and infrastructure sectors in many countries of the region. Provision of housing and related services continues to be a challenge in many Asian cities. Increasing levels of income, globalisation and empowered urban citizens are demanding higher levels of services in many of the Asian countries. There is also significant pressure to create Asian world class cities. Given the structure of the economies of the countries in the region and integration with world markets, Asian cities will have to be competitive on a global scale both in terms of quality and cost efficiency of urban management.

78. The financial sector in the region is comparatively well developed to play a critical role in housing and infrastructure finance. Many countries have liberalized their financial markets. The stock markets in many of the countries are large and well developed. The region is also experiencing significant growth of the Islamic banking system. But the participation of financial markets in financing of housing and urban infrastructure has been limited, and efforts have to be made to bring them on board in many of the developing countries of the region. The depth and breadth of the capital markets provide opportunities to tap private domestic capital. In general, the private sector has contributed substantially to development in the region.

79. Micro-finance institutions and informal markets dominate the financial services for the informal sector and poor in many parts of the region. The penetration of micro-finance into the shelter finance sector is significant in many of the developing countries of the region. Significant efforts are underway to integrate the informal (including micro-finance) markets with formal ones in many of the countries in the region.

Community-led Development Process and Civil Society Participation

80. There is a need for scaling up of these movements and processes and introducing the same in other developing countries which do not currently practice them in a comprehensive way. There is a need to promote urban low-income housing policies and programs that are people-centred but community-based.

81. Non-governmental organisations and other civil society institutions have an important role to play in ensuring access to finance especially for poor.

82. Women have central role in any system of the housing and financing as evidenced in many countries and as mandated by UN resolutions. Ownership and leasehold rights, borrowings, basic services may be provided to the women

Deepening of Housing Finance Markets

83. Given the innovations and improved economic growth in the region, there is significant scope for deepening of the housing finance markets and financial services industry, especially for low-to-middle income households in many of the developing countries of the region. The key measures in this regard include:

- Promote affordable housing through provision of improved service delivery and making available serviced land at the right time and the right price;
- Improve land use planning as well as make land available through various measures (including land banks);
- Promote incremental housing and incremental financing linked to: affordability and increasing household incomes based on a non-discriminatory basis;
- Encourage lease and rental solutions for the housing and land for low income households;
- Design and implement specific finance products for housing and infrastructure for the poor within the main financial system as well as through micro-finance institutions based on affordability (to lend on an incremental basis);

- Establishment of special purpose vehicles for intermediating market based housing finance and for improving the management of housing stock, which could be funded from various sources including private sector;
- Introduction of credit bureaus for sharing market information on clients;
- Establishment of mortgage insurance/credit guarantee facilities including for title guarantees;
- Promote securitization mechanisms and other secondary market development measures to promote liquidity for housing and infrastructure finance;
- Facilitate long term funds for housing and infrastructure;
- Deepen life and non-life insurance products especially for low income households; and, housing loan products that are linked contractual savings products;
- Encourage alternative house building techniques; and, appropriate standards and technologies, through building centres, to reduce the cost of construction of house for the poor;
- Encourage applied academic research in the urban sector and promote best practices.

Enhancement of the Financial Capacity of Local Governments

84. Enhanced fiscal capacity of local governments enables them to undertake development work at a large scale. It is essential that cities are made to work for all citizens – equitably and efficiently. There are several important actions that include:

- Fiscal decentralization aimed at improving own revenue base of cities;
- Promoting land based revenue measures such as impact fees and valorization charges to finance major infrastructure such as public transport;
- Empowering cities to undertake land development with a pro-poor focus; Enhancing the quantity and predictability of inter-governmental transfers, with special attention on output based aid and incentives for reform;

- Promoting credit rating of local governments;
- Rule and market based municipal borrowing frameworks;
- Promoting transparency and efficiency in public expenditure; and

Role of Private Sector and General Financial Services Industry

85. The following are the key recommendations related to private sector and financial services industry

- Deepen non-mortgage financing for the housing and services for the poor through intermediaries such as micro-finance institutions. Housing finance may be extended in parallel with finance for income generating activities and linkage to markets;
- Promote private sector participation for housing and services through “Bottom of Pyramid” approaches as well as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR);
- Promote universal access to comprehensive financial services;
- Promote capital flows from international markets, international financial institutions, foreign investment based on national policies

Government Financial and Non-Financial Support

86. The affordability of the majority of the low-income households is a significant concern. Governments have a critical role to play in creating sustainable financing mechanisms for housing and infrastructure development. The following are the recommendations:

- Explore introduction of direct but targeted pro-poor “smart” subsidies for housing; and in some cases, output-based aid for infrastructure;
- Explore initiating and sustaining dedicated large-scale comprehensive national investment programmes for: income-generation; service provision; and, housing development in low-income neighbourhoods.
- Attract community and private sector financial resources to supplement government resources in the national programmes;

- Explore incentives such as tax concessions or tax holidays to promote private sector participation and attract the financial sector in urban development.

87. The governments can also provide substantial non-financial support through the following measures:

- Emphasis on housing and urban development in national development policies;
- Legal reforms to promote private sector participation and attract domestic financial sector into urban development especially for low income households;
- Influencing utilization of donor support for housing and urban development;
- Ensuring that laws are enforced;
- Addressing issues of environmental degradation to lessen the risk and manage the cost of housing and settlement development.

Regional Activities

88. There is a need for capacity building of key stakeholders and experience sharing in the region through regional forums and other mechanisms.

89. Explore the possibility of establishment of regional fund for providing housing finance for poor in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Follow-up Actions

90. It is time to focus on action. There is a need to implement projects and programmes that move the agenda forward no matter how small or big. Through these interventions, it would be possible to: test the theories and the market; bring commercial orientation in local governments; and build scalable and workable solutions to address the problems of slum upgrading and slum prevention. There is also need for establishing country-level technical assistance facilities that support project implementation and policy reforms.

91. To enhance the understanding on multiple dimensions of urban poverty and various types of vulnerabilities that urban poor face, it is desirable that each member country develops and adopts a national strategy for sustainable and inclusive housing finance system. Such a strategy may include a well-defined National Action Plan, which may be regularly monitored for ensuring the outcome.

VII. Consultative Mechanism

92. Establish and institutionalize a consultative mechanism of Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for housing and urban development. The consultative mechanism will play a significant role in the realization of the vision of sustainable urbanization by 2020 in Asia-Pacific.

The Consultative Mechanism should:

- Serve as a forum and network to discuss the urban challenge at the continental level and regional level as a basis for national, provincial and local level strategies and policies and as a focus for the discussion of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals and Targets;
- Encourage and promote the strengthening of good urban governance in Asia Pacific and serve as a platform for advocacy of inclusive urban governance;
- Champion and support innovative housing, urban development and land management practices in Asia-Pacific;
- Promote development of appropriate housing and low-cost construction technology for rural and urban housing;

- Facilitate South-South and international exchanges of expertise, research, experience and best practices in human settlements among private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in the region;
- Develop a better understanding of urban land dynamics that can lead to improved land tenure and to the growth of urban land markets in Asia-Pacific ;
- Provide and promote a supportive environment for informal sector activities, including street vending, within national regulatory framework;
- Support relief and rehabilitation of shelter and human settlements development in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- Urge development partners and multi-lateral agencies to assist Asia Pacific countries on financing housing and urban infrastructure development;
- Promote capacity building efforts and encourage strong ties between research institutions to understand better the economic, legal and financial importance of housing urban development and urban land in Asia-Pacific;
- Encourage the collection and sharing of data and information that can improve the planning and management of urban development;
- Promote the institutionalisation of a culture for urban planning including the preparation of urban strategic plans at both national and local authority level;
- Encourage the mobilization of domestic financial resources for housing and urban development and promote the necessary partnerships for attainment of this objective;
- Mainstream urban and other issues dealing with human settlements in the macro-economic frameworks and national budgets of Asia-Pacific governments;
- Provide a focal point to link relevant aspects of regional strategic initiatives as well as international processes and undertakings consistent with the agenda for sustainable urbanisation;
- Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;

- Encourage partnerships with private sector for shelter , urban infrastructure and services ;
- Undertake all other functions that will lead to the realization of the goals of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Housing and Human Settlements in Asia-Pacific adopted by this Conference;
- Explore possibilities of establishing a regional fund for housing finance for the poor;
- Encourage fast-track implementation of water and sanitation programmes to achieve the MDG targets;
- Promote broad-based participation, taking into account the issues related to youth, women, disabled, and vulnerable groups;
- Promote and encourage policies and programmes that are people centric and community based;
- Promote a sense of urban citizenship through fostering civic responsibilities.

93. Establish links with other inter-ministerial conferences working on issues related to the Habitat Agenda, including, but not limited to, matters concerning water supply and sanitation, local government, land and infrastructure.