



# MINURVI



## **XXVII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES ON HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**

**October 24<sup>TH</sup>, 25<sup>TH</sup> y 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

### **DECLARATION OF BUENOS AIRES**

**The Ministers and High Authorities in Housing and Urban Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean, taking part in this Assembly:**

#### **Considering:**

1. That the Forum of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urban Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), established in 1992, is the main instance for political concertation, regional coordination and cooperation in the realms of housing, territorial, urban and habitat development.
2. That Latin America and the Caribbean is a highly urbanized, diverse and unequal region, thus representing an outstanding case, at the global level, regarding its potential in urban issues and economic, social, cultural, educational, environmental and territorial challenges concerning urbanization to achieve sustainable development, in harmony with nature.
3. That cities and human settlements are centers for opportunities and growth, although they are also spaces where inequality, socio-spatial segregation, poor living conditions, and the situation of social, environmental and economic vulnerability affecting the welfare of large portions of the population become apparent, which poses the need to improve quality of life and contributing to urban and sociocultural integration of areas where those segments of the population are concentrated, prioritizing the urgency of attending marginal areas.
4. That cities are also a space for the creation of wealth, where economic activities profit from service availability and find markets, these economic activities being the support for improved living conditions for families in the territory.
5. That Latin America and the Caribbean are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate variability and climate change, particularly with regard to phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, forest fires, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, floods, landslides, extended droughts and the increase in medium sea level, among others, rendering important to adequately address mitigation and adaptation, emergency management and increasing resilience, and recognizing that the problems linked to climate change become specially apparent in Small Island Developing States and Central America.

6. That population displacement from rural areas to middle-sized cities and large urban centers, increase demands for urban infrastructure and basic public services which need to be addressed through national urban and territorial policies.
7. That Habitat III Conference in Quito produced in 2016 the New Urban Agenda, which in turn was formally adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2016, and that this agenda provides a global framework for its implementation in each one of the States.
8. That implementation and adaptation of the New Urban Agenda and follow-up to Sustainable Development Goal 11 in the region require advancing synergies with other SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in a regional framework for monitoring, follow-up and periodic reporting of the progress towards their implementation, based on official statistics sources of UN Member States.
9. That the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 put forward fundamental issues related to territorial planning and urban development: the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change adverse effects, efficient use of energy and water, reduction of greenhouse gases emissions and the protection of population through the reduction of situations of vulnerability and risk of disasters.

**We affirm:**

1. The importance of including goals of equity and social justice in the strategies, policies and territorial, urban, housing and habitat instruments of management.
2. The relevance of including the gender perspective in housing, urban development and habitat policies.
3. The importance of promoting cities and human settlements that facilitate the access of people with disabilities in equal conditions to the physical environment of the cities and the urban infrastructure. In addition, work towards incorporating the accessibility and universal design as basic principles in national policies and strategies for the implementation of the new urban agenda.
4. That cultural diversity is a core value in our region's identity and, in this regard, any policy oriented towards the integral improvement of habitat and housing must respect, preserve and include the participation of its indigenous and originary peoples, afrodescendants, persons in a situation of mobility, disabled people, vulnerable populations, traditional communities and others, fostering the development of inclusive cities.
5. The importance that countries count on a national framework on legal, institutional and financial issues enabling their guidance of the urban, territorial and social development, in a participative manner, to improve existing habitat conditions for all the population, promoting links with sub-national and local governments and other stakeholders, to advance inclusive, secure, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.

6. In view of our region's high quantitative and qualitative habitational deficit, the need for the provision of adequate, accessible, sustainable and well-located housing with a universal design, the right and security tenure as well as the improvement of existing facilities, with infrastructure, equipment and services to ensure an integral urban development, from a social integration and territorial perspective, that recognizes the inseparable link between housing and urban development and furthering compact, resilient and integrated cities.
7. That programs for urban rehabilitation, together with heritage preservation, are suitable solutions to address the habitational deficit and contribute to universal access to adequate housing, as well as with the universal access to a 'dignified habitat' including basic public services, community equipment and quality urban infrastructure and quality and accessible urban transport.
8. That a search for a balanced articulation between the productive matrix, urban development and environment, is one of the main challenges faced by our region.
9. The need for national urban and sustainable urban mobility policies which include prioritizing significant investment in public transport, allowing to improve life quality by reducing negative externalities, considering the uncontrolled growth of private transportation a critical factor that generates high levels of pollution, which affect life quality and the health of the inhabitants.
10. That political leaders and national authorities face issues affecting several segments of the population, due to precarious habitat resulting from lack of basic services, lack of adequate housing and low public-space quality, among others and availability, which contributes to the exclusion of populations in vulnerable situations within the socio-economic fabric of the city and human settlements.
11. The need of mitigating risk management problems as part of the Sustainable Development commitments
12. That the main strength of our region is built upon its heterogeneity and diversity.

#### **Acknowledging:**

1. The constant support and cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the relevance of the Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up on the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. The constant support and cooperation of UN-Habitat Regional Office in the implementation of the activities of MINURVI.
3. The outstanding work of the countries that took part in the Executive Committee in 2017-2018.
4. The importance and relevance that the Regional Action Plan for the Youth under the 'Cities for the Youth' campaign embodies, as an initiative that enables active participation

in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the regional, national and local levels. Moreover, MINURVI joins the efforts of integrating a youth perspective in urban policies.

5. The potential of the articulation with the Central American Council for Housing and Human Settlements, as a collaborating entity for MINURVI.
6. The warm hospitality of the authorities of Argentina, particularly the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing, as host of this General Assembly.
7. The excellent development of the General Assembly with the participation of 26 members, reinforcing the commitment of all members with MINURVI's performance.

**We are committed to:**

1. Working towards the effective materialization of the right to the city, as defined in the Toluca's Declaration, and fostering the development of urban policies aimed at social inclusion, the development of opportunities and the integral development of their inhabitants, with a gender perspective, recognizing the central role played by national governments in sustainable urban development, territorial planning policy and housing.
2. Reaffirming the right of States not to be subject to the enforcement of unilateral economic, financial or commercial measures that prevent economic and social development particularly in the countries of our region.
3. Working towards the formulation of a Latin-American and the Caribbean Urbanistic Agreement, aimed at generating engagement, based in the UN law system, that will constitute the basis for the adaptation of national and sub-national laws and regulations in the region.
4. Working with an emphasis on urban planning and the reduction of inequalities and poverty in all its dimensions. Strengthening the commitment to reverse the historical condition of inequality of our region.
5. Contemplate the provision of services and the improvement of rural and middle-sized cities habitats in national policies
6. Planning a sustainable development that respects natural environment, preserving cultural heritage and the well-being of all inhabitants.
7. Continuing to incorporate territorial planning in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, through the development of joint prevention and mitigation strategies to the effects of disasters, reaffirming the importance of fulfilling and monitoring the Paris Agreement.
8. Working in coordination with sub-national and local governments in the development of multi-purpose surveys and territorial and territorial planning strategies, taking into account the urban and rural development and socio-cultural perspectives and local financing.

9. Fostering the adoption, development and up-grade of urbanistic and urban planning instrument to increase resource mobilization for public investment, aiming at enhancing life quality of all citizens.
10. Promoting the elaboration of housing policies for the development of cities that take into account the differentiated needs according to age, gender and disability, and that are affordable, accessible, safe, resilient, well-connected and well-placed, and strengthening their socio-spatial integration.
11. Promoting the participation of MINURVI in high level events related to habitat and its network association with other international organizations.
12. Promoting and supporting the design of sectorial policies and the development of national urban policies in line with the premises of the New Urban Agenda and the Action Framework for its Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this respect, MINURVI, with the support of UN-Habitat, ECLAC and other allied international organizations, will promote and support those countries that decide to review their national urban policy or existing national public policy.
13. Consider the Regional Action Plan, coordinated by ECLAC and UN-Habitat, as the reference for the implementation of the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.
14. Promote the development of the Regional Urban Observatory for the identification and establishment of methodologies and indicators, which will allow to set concrete goals for the region, as well as to promote the cooperation between the official statistics institutes of each country.
15. Support the development of the Platform of the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub (UHPH) and participate actively in the network composed of national and local governments, private sector, academic sectors, civil society and multilateral agencies through the exchange of knowledge and practical experiences in relation to the urban and habitat issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.
16. Implement the provisions of the Statute Review Committee and recognize the changes proposed in the structure of MINURVI.
17. Placing MINURVI, in the framework of its 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as the political regional forum in matters of human settlements, urban development and housing, as well as the regional dialogue in matters of habitat worldwide, through

**Request the Executive Committee to:**

- a. Coordinating MINURVI's position in high level events on habitat and human settlements, in consultation with Member States, and in the framework of agreements reached in the General Assembly.
- b. Promote the coordination between its member States and their statistics institutes.

- c. Propose a system of indicators and goals to the next MINURVI Assembly.
- d. Formulate a comprehensive draft for the Latin America and the Caribbean Urban Agreement.
- e. Develop a work plan within a period of no more than 90 days from the adoption of this Declaration, which contains a proposal for exchange activities, face-to-face and virtual workshops, the connection of MINURVI with other regions, promoting articulation with entities, promote participation in thematic fora and generate technical meetings between the countries of each subregion.
- f. Use the digital platforms to promote the dissemination among the Members of all MINURVI activities and generate strategies to continue stimulating the participation of the Members in the General Assemblies, the sub-regional dialogues, and their different working bodies.
- g. Convene a meeting of the Executive Committee no later than 60 days after the adoption of this Declaration.

**Integrating the Executive Committee, until the XXVIII General Assembly of MINURVI, with the following composition,**

The South America sub-region will be integrated by Ecuador and Colombia.

The Central America and Mexico sub-region will be integrated by El Salvador and Mexico.

The Caribbean sub-region will be integrated by Dominican Republic and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Appoint as Presidency Costa Rica.

The XXVIII General Assembly of MINURVI will be held in 2019 in Costa Rica.

Buenos Aires, 26<sup>TH</sup> October, 2018.



MINURVI



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**MINURVI**



XXVII  
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