

**XXXIII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS AND HIGH LEVEL
AUTHORITIES OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN – MINURVI**

Belem, Brazil

December 12th and 13th, 2024

Declaration of Belem

**Housing and the Urban Agenda: Strategic Priorities in the Face of the Global
Climate Crisis**

A Renewed Role for MINURVI and Its Institutional Strengthening

The Ministers and High Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, participating in this thirty-third General Assembly, declare the following:

Considering that:

The Forum of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), established in 1992, is the main space to promote regional coordination and cooperation on matters related to the sustainable development of cities and urban areas in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Access to adequate housing and developable land, as well as the improvement of informal settlements continue to be critical aspects to be taken into account in sustainable and inclusive development efforts in the countries of the region.

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region with unique challenges and opportunities, being the most urbanized in the developing world and, given the high levels of inequality and diversity, it requires promoting sustainable, resilient, inclusive and productive urban development.

The cities of the region, due to their geographical and socioeconomic conditions, are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change – one of the most urgent challenges of our times. They face the exacerbated impact of extreme weather events and the loss of ecosystems, all within a context of social and economic inequalities. This context

highlights the need for active strategies for land use planning and urban development in the formulation of national and local mitigation plans and, above all, adaptation plans.

Cities are spaces where significant levels of socio-spatial segregation and low levels of productivity are reproduced and expressed. However, they also have the immense potential to generate solutions and respond to crises, maximizing positive impacts in the environmental, economic and social dimensions.

Recognizing:

- i. **The strategic relevance of MINURVI**, which brings together the highest authorities in housing and urban development, strengthening the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, with the aim of consolidating practical and results-oriented efforts towards more sustainable urban development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ii. **The valuable contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**, which, in their joint role as Technical Secretariat of MINURVI, have continuously accompanied and supported MINURVI and the region's efforts towards sustainable urban development and access to adequate housing.
- iii. **The leadership of MINURVI's Executive Committee**, headed by the Minister of Cities of Brazil, in the organization of the thirty-third General Assembly, as a key space to strengthen the regional agenda on adequate housing and urban development.
- iv. **The need for reinforced regional cooperation** to make visible the strategic role of urban and housing policies in responding to the climate crisis and promoting greater economic, social and environmental equity, addressing priority issues such as:
 - a) Comprehensive strategies to address climate change.
 - b) Adequate housing and urban planning as key pillars for advancing the 2030 Agenda.
 - c) Urban renewal and regeneration as drivers of sustainability.
 - d) Land management and innovative financing mechanisms.
 - e) Inclusive and sustainable urban development in the Amazon Region.

We commit to

1. **Continue efforts** aimed at fulfilling the principles and goals of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, as well as the promotion and protection of Human Rights, in particular the right to the city and adequate housing.

2. **Strengthen sustainable urban development** through specific actions and strategies for adaptation and mitigation of climate change, as well as the prevention and management of disaster risks, through land use planning, urban planning and the promotion of resilient housing that responds to the needs of the most vulnerable communities.
3. **Promote urban renewal**, particularly in the central areas of the Region's cities, seeking to promote more efficient use of land and existing buildings under a circular and local economy approach and adopting concrete strategies and actions that promote the decarbonization of buildings.
4. **Design and implement urban policies based on equity and sustainability**, prioritizing collective well-being and social cohesion, and resulting from a vigorous process of social participation in which the rights of access to information and citizen participation are guaranteed in a timely and effective manner.
5. **Develop financing instruments that allow for the partial capture of the appreciation of urban land** resulting from regulatory changes and/or public investment, in a way that prioritizes the public interest and allows for the financing of urban infrastructure in a sustainable and equitable manner, which also considers the social and ecological function of the land.
6. **Strengthen platforms** that enable monitoring progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the promotion of adequate housing. This includes the Urban and Cities Platform, which serves as a strategic repository for MINURVI's actions and outcomes, the Urban Agenda Platform, the UHPH platform, and others in the region.
7. **Promote, including through the formation of coalitions, the regional and interregional exchange of data, knowledge and good practices**, strengthening cooperation between countries to learn from successful experiences in adequate housing and urban development, and broaden the dissemination of these lessons for the benefit of Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions of the world.
8. **Actively participate in regional and global forums**, including the Continuation of the Second United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2025, positioning the vision and decisions of MINURVI as a relevant and representative voice of Latin America and the Caribbean on the issues of adequate housing and sustainable urban development.
9. **Resume the formulation of a Latin American and Caribbean Urban Agreement**, considering the recent resolutions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly on Housing for All and Localization of the SDGs.
10. **Reaffirm and promote the importance of the urban agenda in climate discussions**, especially in the context of the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in Belem, Brazil, in

November 2025, promoting more means of implementing the Paris Agreement with regard to mitigation and, above all, the adaptation of its most vulnerable cities and regions.

11. **Promote the accession of all countries in the region** to the Coalition for High Ambition Multi-Level Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action, as well as to the Intergovernmental Council on Buildings and Climate (ICBC), for the implementation of the Chaillot Declaration, with emphasis on social housing.

12. **Seek to establish common positions for the Region** on the aforementioned initiatives, as well as promote the formation of ad hoc working groups on topics of interest, under the coordination of a member country, whose tasks must undergo a technical phase before being included in the General Assembly's Agenda.

13. **Promote the development of a Strategic Framework for Urban Development for the Amazon**, as a result of the work of the MINURVI Working Group for the Amazon region, which will guide urban and housing policies aligned with global development agendas and the social, cultural and environmental characteristics of this biome, promoting sustainable urbanization that prioritizes the conservation of biodiversity, climate resilience and the well-being of local communities.

We also decide to

14. Support the regional public good initiative for developing information to estimate GHG emissions in the construction sector, promoted by the Inter-American Development Bank, as a valid and important tool for the Region's sustainable planning. To access it, countries must request support from the IDB to expand its scope.

15. Establish an ad hoc working group on the topic of urban renewal, as mentioned in point number 3, under the leadership of Costa Rica, with the support of Chile, Ecuador, and El Salvador.

16. Support the continuation of the Latin America and Caribbean Housing Yearbook, produced by CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, as a resource to strengthen public policy formulation.

17. Approve the updated Internal Regulations of MINURVI.

18. Choose **Barbados** as the venue for the XXXIV General Assembly of MINURVI.

19. **Elect the following Executive Committee**, which will accompany the 2025 period:

Presidency: Barbados

First Vice Presidency: Chile

Second Vice Presidency: Honduras

Approved by the Ministers and/or High Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development, or their delegates, who attended the XXXIII General Assembly of MINURVI in Belém on the 13th of December 2024.¹

¹ Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay, Uruguay