



UCLG CONGRESS  
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL  
AND REGIONAL LEADERS

# MANIFESTO

## The Future of Housing

#CitiesAreListening

UCLG Manifestos

# **MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF ADEQUATE HOUSING**

## **RECLAIMING PUBLIC AUTHORITY TO FULFIL THE COMMUNITIES' RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING**

While global real estate is valued at US\$ 217 trillion, adequate and affordable housing is increasingly out of reach for hundreds of millions of people across the world. This housing reality affects a large portion of the population. Homelessness is on the rise almost everywhere in the world, forced evictions continue unabated and marginalized communities find themselves in increasingly precarious living situations. While the most marginalized are clearly and deeply affected by the housing crisis, it is increasingly reaching the middle and upper income households. In response, the world constituency of local and regional governments, the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing Leilani Farha and the Global Platform to the Right to the City rallied since 2016 (Habitat III and UCLG Bogota Commitment) to promote the right to adequate housing, turning it into one of the main priorities of local and global agendas.

Since then, local governments across the world have made collective efforts to raise awareness on housing issues in the urban context (including homelessness, inadequate housing, forced evictions, social and spatial segregation, real estate speculation leading to the financialization of housing, unaffordable housing, etc.). Through these efforts, they have shown their willingness to explore policies aimed at securing the right to housing. In reclaiming housing as a human right, local governments worldwide are committing to improving local action, policy innovation and practical implementation of the right to housing, while exposing the dramatic consequences caused by the financialization of housing.

Over 40 local governments across the world have committed to The Shift and signed the Declaration **“Cities for Adequate Housing”** (2018). This is the first and only step at the international level regarding such issues.

Building on their commitments to The Shift and the Declaration, local, metropolitan and regional governments are: collectively claiming more power to regulate the housing markets; attracting more funding towards affordable housing options in addition to improving public and social housing stocks; creating more

tools to co-produce public-private community-driven alternative housing; developing urban planning strategies that combine adequate housing with inclusive and sustainable neighborhoods; and enhancing local governments and city network cooperation in residential strategies.

We, local governments gathered on the occasion of the 2019 World Congress of UCLG - World Summit of Local and Regional Governments:

1. **Recognize the right to adequate housing** and its seven criteria (security of tenure; availability of services; habitability; affordability; accessibility; location; cultural adequacy) as the main framework to advance local rights based housing strategies, as required by our commitment to The Shift and the UCLG Declaration “Cities for Adequate Housing”.

2. Acknowledge the **UCLG Declaration “Cities for Adequate Housing”** and its five strategic axis as a key framework for the development of UCLG's strategic priorities on housing in the coming period. We are willing to develop further its contents and to include new advocacy and policy perspectives that better reflect the existing thematic and regional diversity in the framework of our organization. The UCLG Community of Practice on Housing will allow for the exchange of concrete practices, as well as the collective advancement of the implementation of the right to adequate housing.

3. Recognize local and regional governments are increasingly adopting an **integrated approach to housing** challenges that recalls its social function and its essential contribution to fulfil the citizen's right to the city. We believe housing is linked to many other critical human rights issues, such as access to basic services, non-discrimination or gender equality. The 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda are also opportunities to strengthen an integrated approach to the right to adequate housing.

5. Call on national governments to develop rights based housing strategies with the full involvement and collaboration of local governments. The allocation of financial resources is a core element of cooperation. We also encourage the international partners, donors and other relevant stakeholders to localize finance in order to advance the implementation of the right to adequate housing.

6. Commit to **keep building on the landmarks of The Shift, as well as** our partnership with the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing. We equally acknowledge the important contribution played by global civil society and social movements rallied for the right to housing and the right to the city.

We call for an enhanced cooperation between local governments to further envision the achievement of a global Housing agenda in the frame of the 2030 Agenda and the next implementation decade.

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