

VIENNA MESSAGE

QUALITY LIVING FOR ALL: ON ACCESS TO ADEQUATE, AFFORDABLE AND DECENT HOUSING

Adopted by the Vienna Conference on Sustainable Housing on 12 April 2018

1. We, the delegates to the Vienna UNECE Conference on Sustainable Housing, welcome the start of the implementation process of the [Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing](#), endorsed by UNECE on 16 April 2015.

2. We recognize that sustainability of housing policies and programmes as a means for living should be understood through their four dimensions:

a) economic and financial sustainability, meaning stable financing and use of innovative instruments for housing construction and renovation,

b) social sustainability through inclusion and participation, meaning the contribution of housing policies to social cohesion in cities,

c) environmental sustainability, meaning sustainable use of natural resources and addressing issues of climate change, and

d) cultural adequacy meaning housing policies are implemented considering cultural context and local conditions.

These four dimensions of housing policies should be addressed in an integrated manner. Through the application of the integrated approach, housing policies will ensure the access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all.

3. We reiterate that the people centered Charter principles support the implementation of [the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), including the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 11 to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; and [the New Urban Agenda](#). To effectively implement the Charter, the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, effective policies and actions need to be developed and realised at all levels. They should be supported by international cooperation, to contribute to sustainable development in the region.

4. We underline the importance of housing practices which support an improved environmental, health and energy performance of dwellings resulting in secure, higher quality of life of inhabitants.

5. We also stress that to meet people's needs, secure and neutral tenure should be ensured.

6. We urge that different groups of the population should clearly be addressed in housing policies, without creating poverty areas, i.e. by aiming at socially mixed communities.

7. We recognize the importance of democratic and transparent processes in housing construction and in retrofitting based on expert knowledge, international knowledge transfer and exchange of best practices which promotes data collection for evidence based housing policies, transparent statistics, and a broad public debate about all aspects of the housing development.

8. We encourage all the member States and stakeholders of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management to continue the implementation process of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing according to the [Guidelines for the Charter adopted by the Committee](#); through the organisation of further regional, national and local events; the establishment of [Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence](#); preparation of Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management (including respective Action Plans); and conducting relevant studies and demonstration projects.

9. We appreciate the potential of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management as an intergovernmental neutral platform in the UNECE Region for sharing best practices in sustainable housing, urban development and land administration.

10. We express our gratitude to the Committee secretariat and to the City of Vienna for the organisation of this conference.

Vienna, April 12, 2018