

**6TH ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (APMCHUD)**

THE NEW DELHI DECLARATION

**New Delhi
14-16 December 2016**

We, the Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development, meeting in New Delhi, India, from 14 to 16 December 2016, to consider the challenges of and to explore opportunities for sustainable housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific;

Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of India for the excellent arrangements of the Sixth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) and our gratitude to the people of the Republic of India for their warm reception and hospitality accorded to us throughout our stay;

Also express our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the 5th APMCHUD and successfully chairing the 5th Bureau of APMCHUD, and providing excellent leadership and guidance during its tenure;

Convey our gratitude to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for the continuing support provided by UN-Habitat since the establishment of APMCHUD;

Thank with appreciation the Government of India and in particular the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the continued hosting of the Permanent Secretariat of APMCHUD in New Delhi, and also for the lead taken in strengthening the resource base of the APMCHUD;

Take note with appreciation the progress that APMCHUD has made in its journey of a decade since its establishment, serving as an inter-governmental consultative mechanism and effectively facilitating cooperation and collaboration in fostering sustainable housing and urban development;

Reaffirm our determination to continue pursuing the realization of the goals and objectives of APMCHUD as set forth in its first Declaration in Delhi, further strengthened and expanded in the subsequent Declarations pronounced in Tehran, Solo, Amman and Seoul;

Noting that this 6th APMCHUD is the first major regional meeting of ministers of housing and urban development since the conclusion of Habitat III and the endorsement of the New Urban Agenda;

Strongly reaffirm the commitments our governments made with regard to the goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Goal 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; and the transformative commitments for sustainable urban development agreed to in the New Urban Agenda;

Take the opportunity of meeting here in New Delhi to strengthen our resolve, and respective as well as joint actions towards the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

Conscious of the fact that urbanization in the Asia Pacific region has had a significant positive association with improved levels of the standard of living at large, and that the positive potential of urbanisation is yet to be fully realized;

Realize the rapid pace of urbanization in the recent past in the Asia Pacific region and its projected faster pace in the years to come, and simultaneously recognizing that such rapid pace is expected to result in emerging spontaneous urban forms which may become unmanageable and unsustainable;

Recognising that the 25th session of the Governing Council of the UN-Habitat, in 2015, focused on Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages across the Continuum of Human Settlements to Harness the Transformative Power of Urbanization for Sustainable Development, which has significant relevance for the Asia Pacific region;

Reaffirm our commitment for ensuring affordable housing for all as a component of an improved standard of living; and support skill development, training and capacity development initiatives to empower and strengthen skills and abilities of all stakeholders;

Reaffirm our intent, to regularly convene to share our experiences, good practices, innovative approaches and challenges in the field of housing and urban development towards ensuring sustainability, equity and inclusiveness;

Recognise, in the light of the New Urban Agenda, the special significance and strategic challenges of the policy and governance reforms as a result of the expanding city regions, cities and towns in many parts of Asia Pacific, requiring appropriate national urban policies, urban legal frameworks, integrated urban and territorial planning and design, urban financing frameworks and appropriate multi-level governance frameworks encouraging action by all stakeholders, including effective cooperation between national, subnational and local governments;

Fully aware that sustainable development efforts, in particular alleviating and eradicating poverty in all its forms, removing inequalities, minimizing environmental degradation, restraining social and economic exclusion and spatial segregation, allows us to achieve balanced rural and urban development and enable us to fully capitalize on our rich diversity in culture, tradition, language, religion and civilization in our region;

Appreciating the significant efforts made by the lead countries of the five APMCHUD Working Groups led by the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Maldives, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Indonesia for sharing of information and experiences in the respective fields amongst the countries of our Region;

Confirming our resolve for a voluntary, country-led, open, inclusive, multilevel, participatory and transparent follow-up to enable the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with United Nations system and, in particular, UN-Habitat;

Reiterate our commitment for APMCHUD and its Working Groups to serve as a forum and network to discuss our follow-up actions on the commitments of the New Urban Agenda and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Appreciating the opportunities we have as Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development for promoting innovative and appropriate approaches for integrated development of cities, towns and their peripheries;

And Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Working Groups, decide to:

1. *Develop* policies at national, subnational and local levels where they do not exist and review and strengthen the current policies towards integrated development of cities, towns and their peripheral areas;
2. *Encourage* the adoption of approaches that promote cities, towns and their peripheral areas as an urban-rural continuum and for strengthening their complementarity for mutual advantage and growth;
3. *Ensure* that the emerging urban forms are appropriately recognized and managed through effective governance structures so that these areas economically and spatially drive sustainable development;
4. *Strengthen* the sharing of information on innovative policies and successful practices relating to housing and urban development, through all possible approaches, including by regularly updating and interlinking the online information resources with the assistance of specified nodal contacts;
5. *Actively* engage in the 26th Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in 2017, as well as in the World Urban Forum scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur in February 2018;
6. *Adopt* the New Delhi Implementation Plan as recommended by the five Working Groups;
7. *Continue* with these Working Groups as follows:
 - WG1 led by the Republic of India working on the theme of Urban and Rural Planning and Management;
 - WG2 led by the Islamic Republic of Iran working on the theme of Urban Upgrading;
 - WG3 led by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka working on the theme of Basic Services including Energy and Mobility for Integrated and Inclusive Development;

- WG4 led by the Republic of Korea working on the theme of Financing Sustainable Housing and Urban Development;
 - WG5 led by the Republic of Indonesia working on the theme of Urban Development with a focus on Natural, Man-made and Climate-induced Disasters;
8. *Endorse* the composition of the 6th Bureau of APMCHUD with its members being Ministers representing:
 - a. Republic of India
 - b. Republic of Korea
 - c. Islamic Republic of Iran
 - d. Republic of Indonesia
 - e. Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
 - f. Republic of Iraq
 - g. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - h. Republic of Nauru
 9. *Request* the current chair of APMCHUD to ensure the execution of this Declaration and its Implementation Plan, in collaboration with other members of the Bureau, the APMCHUD Secretariat and UN-Habitat, and to receive and share with other member states regular updates on related matters;
 10. *Reiterate* our continued commitment to strengthen APMCHUD and the Secretariat to undertake the required activities, while encouraging member nations to contribute to the resource base in line with the Amman Declaration as reiterated in the Seoul Declaration;
 11. *Authorize* the Bureau to decide on the host nation of the 7th Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development to be held in 2018, and to keep the member countries informed in this regard well in advance.

Adopted as the New Delhi Declaration on the 16th December, 2016.

