

XII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS AND MAXIMUM AUTHORITIES OF HOUSINGS AND THE URBANISM OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
VIII IBERO-AMERICAN FORUM OF MINISTER AND MAXIMUM AUTHORITIES OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

La Paz, Bolivia, 6 and 7 of November of the 2003

LA PAZ DECLARATION

The Ministers and Maximum Authorities of Housing and the Urbanism of the Ibero-American countries and the Caribbean gathered the days 6 and 7 of November of 2003, in La Paz, Bolivia, with the purpose of analyzing jointly, in this instance of regional agreement framework, the matters related with the central topic of the XII MINURVI: **"The impact of the economic growth deceleration in the urban development and the housing: the human establishments and the basic services, the land and the housing exclusion."**

Taking in account (Having present):

1. That the General Assembly of Ministers and Maximum Authorities of Housing and the Urbanism of the Latin America and the Caribbean Countries (MINURVI) and the Ibero-American Forum of Ministers and Maximum Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector, conformed by all the South America, Central America, the Caribbean countries and Mexico, are the entities for the political agreement, coordination and regional cooperation of the human establishments sustainable development topics and for all our inhabitants habitat problems gradual solution.
2. That most of the Latin America and the Caribbean countries face big habitat problems, whose main aspect is the considerable and increasing quantitative and qualitative housings deficit, accompanied by an increment of the marginality, overcrowding, the urban patrimony deterioration and the life quality, processes worsened by the natural threats, the economic adjustments effects and a lack of housing and human establishments planning and appropriate administration.
3. That the implementation and monitoring of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Action Plan related to Human Establishments, embraces the main guide objectives in the housing area; the territorial and urban classification and the local governability that constitutes one of the high-priority tasks of MINURVI member countries.

4. That is necessary to work for the poverty , the urban and rural segregation, the differences in the urban and rural life qualities, the access difficulties elimination and the security in the holding property of land and housing, as well as the reduction of the housings, infrastructures and services deficit.
5. That this scenario constitutes a challenge for our countries with the purpose of defining strategies, policies and programs to overcome the current conditions in which we live and to guarantee the elements sustainability
6. That is indispensable to exist a political and social will with clearly defined priorities to approach the human establishments problem integrally in our region impacted by the economic deceleration in the land, housing and services access aspects, contributing to the implementation of social integral qualification policies directed to the population in poverty condition.
7. That is indispensable to generate mechanisms that contribute to overcome the inequities in the incomes distribution that affect the human establishments.
8. That the housing should be seen as a coexistence space, where the unhealthy causes a low life quality in homes and results important to minimize the risk factors and to guide the inhabitants in the characteristics of a healthy housing, just as it establishes the OPS – OMS initiative that has as objective the healthy housing as a base for the social and human development of the family and the individual.
9. That is an urgent necessity to revitalize the MINURVI operability and structure to enhance its role in the integration processes at sub-regional and regional level, to harmonize the human establishments policies, to promote the cooperation between the countries and the cities, and to perfect the exchange mechanisms, knowledge transference and human resources training.
10. That is important to present to the Ibero-American State and Government Heads Summits the main agreements by the Ministers and Maximum Authorities of Housing and the Urbanism.

Recognizing:

1. The valuable and constant contribution and collaboration of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the commitments monitoring processes of the Regional Action Plan and of the MINURVI agreements implementation, materialized in the support provided for the elaboration of the thematic document and in the documents preparation on the topics of poverty, precariousness and access to the urban land in the Latin America and The Caribbean countries, as well as in the realization of seminars and training courses.

2. The positive results obtained in the Regional Specialization Course on Human Establishments, developed by the ECLAC, the University Promotion Corporation, the Chile University and the Ministry of Housing and Urbanism of the same country.
3. The value and the validity that the countries that integrates the MINURVI assign to the human resources training that intervene in the policies, strategies and urban and housing territorial programs.
4. The considerable support provided by the Regional Office of the United Nations Program for Human Establishments (UN Hábitat-ROLAC) in the MINURVI tasks, in the implementation of the Global Campaigns of Sure Holding and Urban Governance, in the collaboration projects in programs activities of risk reduction to natural disasters in cooperation with the International Strategy for the Disasters Reduction (EIRD), the Better Practices Program as well as the Improvement of the Local Sustainable Planning in collaboration with the PNUMA.
5. That the International Strategy for the Disasters Reduction constitutes a global framework for every action that pretends to reduce disasters risks.
6. That the regional diagnosis and the priority guide limits for the human establishment sustainable development elaborated by ECLAC with the UN-HABITAT (ROLAC) support that will be presented in the next United Nations Committee of Sustainable Development in New York the 2004 identifies the regional priorities in the topics in this field.
7. The financial support provided by these two international agencies to the Technical Secretary for the participation in the different events and meetings that were programmed for this period.
8. The advances obtained in the cooperation agreements and joint work plans undersigned by MINURVI with the Ibero-American Science and Technology Program for the Development (CYTED), in technology transference.
9. The Cuba Republic active role that carried out in an efficient way for third consecutive year, the Technical Secretary of MINURVI.
10. The authorities hospitality of the Bolivia Republic and in particular of the La Paz city and department, as well as of the Economic Development Ministry and the Urban Development and Housing Vice-ministry substantive contribution with the technicians and specialists support.

By virtue of the above-mentioned, the participant countries in the General Assembly,

We agree:

1. To ratify the necessity to continue strengthening the cooperation mechanisms and dialogue in the human establishments sustainable development area, therefore consolidating the Ibero-American and Caribbean community fundamental values.
2. To reaffirm in the framework of the commitments and goals agreed by the State Heads of the Millennium Summit 2000, the disposition to work prioritarily in the poverty elimination, expressed in different forms of social – spatial inequity, such as: segregation, differences in the urban and rural life qualities, insecurity, vulnerability facing the disasters, access inequity and legal security of the land holding, the housing and the basic services.
3. To put in consideration of the Presidents and State Heads the La Paz Declaration Special Protocol, in order to approve a Social Interest Housing and Human Establishments Regional Program, aimed to the poorest social sectors.
4. To countersign the necessity to strengthen the State role and its responsibility with a progressive solution of the serious problems as regards housing and urbanism.
5. To highlight the necessity to strengthen the fiscal policies implementation or of another kind, that allow an incomes redistribution to stop and to revert the excessive current concentration of the wealth, and therefore to favor the amplification of programs related with the habitat.
6. To recommend to the countries to consider the multiple dimensions of the precariousness of the habitat in poverty improvement programs in specific interventions according to the necessities and priorities in each city or country, taking care that they articulate one with each other and with other programs, to rise in an integral way the life quality of the poor people.
7. To motivate to the Housing and Urban Development Sector organisms associated to MINURVI so they promote in their respective countries a programmatic and institutional coordination with other public, private and community entities, so the provision and the housings improvement, the amplification of the services covering and the dominion regularization become coordinated interventions to each other and with other poverty improvement initiatives in the urban space.
8. To commit efforts of the member countries guided to the realization of the next session of the United Nations General Assembly, Istanbul + 10, the

year 2006, particularly in the execution evaluation of the Regional Action Plan commitments and their updating with emphasis in the regional priorities.

9. To strengthen the innovators financial strategies design to support the habitat programs, with the United Nations attendance, as well as housing programs with public, private participation of the national, sub-regional, regional and global financial institutions, and that at the same time they promote the equity for the population's more vulnerable groups.
10. To negotiate by means of the mechanisms settled down by the Executive Committee, a bigger financial support of the international cooperation to face the habitat problems.
11. To impel the coordination of the Executive Committee with the Housing and Human Establishments Central American Council (CCVAH) and the Social Integration Secretary of the SICA; and to promote the strengthening of the support provided by UN-Habitat (ROLAC) and other cooperation organisms to the CCVAH.
12. To commend to the Executive Committee to evaluate the viability of the proposed modifications collected in the Technical Phase narratory whose objective is to strengthen MINURVI and especially the Technical Secretary.
13. To implement the database for the regional diagnosis on advances referred to policies, programs and projects of the countries guided to the habitat poverty and precariousness reduction. In this sense the authorities commit to hand in and to send this information to the Technical Secretary, through the specifications elaborated by ECLAC.
14. To monitor the report formulation of the human establishments condition in the region on the platform of prepared discussion base for the Technical Secretary and the ECLAC, including an aspects analysis to be updated in the Action Plan; as well as the presentation of the advance indicators in their implementation. To this effect, each member country will nominate a technician focal point to monitor this topic.
15. To recommend to the Executive Committee to evaluate the work proposal of a healthy housing strategy with the Pan-American Health Organization - OPS-OMS, in coordination with UN-Habitat and ECLAC.
16. To support the realization of the next versions of the Post-graduate Specialization Course in Human Establishments, for that we commit to negotiate the postulation of public officials, local experts and professionals of the area in this regional training, likewise to mobilize resources for the financing of their participation.

17. To commit the participation of our professionals in the training and specialization activities that the ECLAC , CYTED, OPS and other international organisms imparts that offer support in this area.
18. To diffuse and to impel the implementation of the International Strategy for the Disasters Reduction objectives (EIRD) in particular in aspects related to the housing and the human establishments.
19. To impel the implementation of world-wide campaigns on the holding security and the urban governability; to promote the systematizing and exchange of better practices as learning instrument; to support the development of initiatives about sustainable local administration impelled by PNUMA and UN-Habitat (ROLAC); and to give as concluded the work of the housing and urban development terms glossary.
20. To commend to the Presidency of the XII MINURVI Assembly and of the VIII Ibero-American Forum to present the high-priority points of this La Paz Declaration in the XIII Ibero-American Summit, with the purpose that the State and Government Heads know the carried out activities, and incorporate and support the policies, plans and actions agreed by the region countries.
21. To integrate until the XIII MINURVI, the Executive Committee with the following composition:

The Central America and Mexico sub-region, will be represented by the Panama Republic and Mexican United States, and this last one will act as the sub-region focal point.

The Caribbean sub-region, will be represented by the country to designate by the Executive Committee and Cuba, and this last one will act as the sub-region focal point.

The South America sub-region, will be represented by the Venezuela Bolivarian Republic and the Argentina Republic and this last one will act as the sub-region focal point.
22. To design as MINURVI's Technical Secretary, to the Republic of Chile.
23. To realize the XIII MINURVI General Assembly and the IX Ibero-American Forum in the year 2004 in Costa Rica.
24. To accept as alternative seat for the XIII MINURVI General Assembly to the Mexican United States.

Signed in the La Paz city at seven days of the November month of the two thousand three year.

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Xavier Nogales Iturri
Ministro de Desarrollo Económico

República de Argentina
José Francisco López
Secretario de Obras Públicas

Republica de Chile
María de la Luz Nieto
Asesora Ministerial

República de Costa Rica
Helio Fallas
Ministro de Vivienda y Asentamientos Humanos

República de Cuba
Victor Ramirez Ruiz
Presidente del Instituto Nacional de la Vivienda

República Dominicana
Carlos Espinal Andeliz
Gerente de Planeación del Instituto Nacional de Vivienda

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