Organization's Name: NGO Working Group to End Homelessness

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Chapeau

(Add your concise, concrete, and action-oriented language for the Chapeau)

The Chapeau should recognize that the lack of affordable housing, inadequate and insecure housing, and homelessness are present in every Member State and present a major impediment to achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals. Homelessness is a multidimensional and intersectional issue, laying at the nexus of poverty and inequality, lack of economic opportunity, lack of access to education, gender-based violence, problematic substance use, mental and physical health, the commoditization of housing, discrimination and social exclusion, decreasing investments in social protection floors, and more. Addressing homelessness requires comprehensive policies and programs across these intersections. The Chapeau should recognize the right to adequate housing as a barrier to the realization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in particular to the "right to an adequate standard of living." See the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex. The Chapeau should acknowledge recent key United Nations commitments to addressing homelessness such as ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2020/7 of 23 June 2020, General Assembly resolution 76/133 of 16 December 2021, UN-Habitat resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.7 of 6 July 2023, Human Rights Council report A/HRC/54/30, and Secretary-General report A/78/236 of 24 July 2023.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 1)

Chapter 1 Should clearly acknowledge homelessness as an issue that undermines that achievement of multiple SDGs. Chapter 1 should recall the language of ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2020/7 of 23 June 2020 which recognizes that "addressing homelessness, including through affordable housing policies and social protection systems and measures for all, including floors for all, assists Member States in realizing the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing, in implementing the New Urban Agenda and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals" and

notes that "homelessness can be an obstacle to the effective enjoyment of all human rights and it needs to be addressed through urgent national, multilateral and global responses. In terms of financing for development, Chapter 1 should acknowledge the ECOSOC resolutions of "2016/7 and 2016/8 of 2 June 2016, in which Governments are encouraged to develop, improve, extend and implement inclusive, effective, fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures in which it is acknowledged that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty, vulnerability and homelessness, and are therefore essential to end the marginalization of the homeless and help them integrate into society." Thus social protection systems should be more fully resourced and extended to provide housing and supportive services, including trauma informed services to people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

Chapter II. International peace and security

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 2)

Chapter 2 should recognize that displacement and migration across borders is increasing, due to wars and conflicts, growing inequalities, natural disasters and climate events. Chapter 2 should acknowledge that displaced persons, migrants, and refugees face particular challenges to accessing housing. Displaced persons, migrants, and refugees face formal exclusion to housing, shelter, and related services. They also experience discrimination, racism, and stigma, which often lead them to live and work in precarious conditions, including living on the streets, in overcrowded conditions, in informal settlements, and in insecure conditions where they are at risk of eviction, susceptible to a range of human rights violations. Chapter 2 should call for data collection on the housing and homelessness status of displaced persons, migrants, and refugees and encourage collaboration between the migration and refugee sector and the housing and homelessness sectors.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 3)

Chapter 3 should acknowledge that there is a data gap on the number of people experiencing homelessness globally. As of 2021, only 44 countries collect and report on homelessness data. Chapter 3 should recall the General Assembly resolution 76/133 of 16 December 2021 which "Calls upon Member States to collect disaggregated data on demographics related to homelessness and establish categories of homelessness, accompanying the existing measurement tools, and encourages Member States to harmonize the measurement and collection of data on homelessness to enable national and global policymaking. Chapter 3 should reference the Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness, in which the Member States of the European Union recognized the connection of homelessness to SDG 1 and SDG 11 and acknowledged "the importance of reliable data collection on homelessness…allowing common understanding, systematic comparison and monitoring at the EU level." Chapter 3 should make clear that the collection, analysis, and dissemination of homelessness data, supported by technology and digital cooperation tools, will provide the basis of a scientific approach to addressing homelessness and accelerate the scale of effective policies and programs. Chapter 3 should recommend that the UN Statistics Commission engage with key stakeholders including

people with the lived experience of homelessness to "ensure reliable information at all levels" particularly "disseminating the most relevant procedures, including guidelines on disaggregation." (A/78/236).

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 4)

Chapter 4 should recognize the Secretary-General report A/78/236 of 24 July 2023 and its rich section highlighting the problem of youth homelessness. "Homelessness experienced by younger people is often hidden and can go undetected by policymakers and the general population. Youth homelessness continues to be a cause of global concern. Children and adolescents who live or work on the streets, with or without family, can be found in major cities of the world, in particular in densely populated urban hubs. Family poverty is the main self-reported reason for youth homelessness. In addition, certain groups are at greater risk: young people who are rejected by their families; young people of minority ethnic, racial or gender groups in poverty and hardship; and young asylum-seekers and refugees who may find themselves with nowhere to go. Young people living on the streets face daily challenges in fulfilling basic needs. They also face barriers in accessing services associated with their civil engagement and with their sexual and reproductive health. In most cases, their situation forces young people experiencing homelessness out of education, lowering opportunities for employment and earning a decent living. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, for instance, three out of four street children can neither read nor write. Young people living in homelessness face greater risks of malnourishment, poor health, violence and exploitation and are prone to engaging in illegal activities. They usually end up resorting to substance abuse and becoming victims of forced labour, human trafficking or sexual exploitation, putting them at greater risk of sexually transmitted infections, adolescent pregnancies and premature death. Among the major challenges in addressing youth homelessness is the lack of comprehensive services for facilitating reintegration and rehabilitation. Such services, when available, allow young people coming from juvenile justice systems or other forms of institutionalization to access counselling services, including mental health and psychosocial support, which are crucial for their growth and development. Homelessness policies and strategies often fail to accommodate the needs of young adults. Addressing youth homelessness could start with implementing targeted housing initiatives, as seen in homeowner schemes adopted by some countries, including Papua New Guinea and Slovenia, and slum improvement programmes as initiated by India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi and Pakistan."

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 5)

Chapter 5 should recognize that homelessness is, at its core, a failing of multiple systems and that solutions to homelessness require a "whole-of-society" response including global governance mechanisms. Chapter 5 should make clear that homelessness fits well within the current SDG framework, particularly under SDGs 1 and SDG 11, and that any existing or refreshed structures should explicitly name homelessness and encourage targeted interventions to address it. Chapter 5 should call on UN-Habitat, UN DESA, and the UN Statistics Commission to jointly lead interagency

efforts to develop comprehensive guidance on policies and programs to address homelessness, including data collection. Chapter 5 should reference the call to set a global target on ending homelessness and for the General Assembly to receive and consider bi-annual reports on homelessness (A/78/236). Further, Chapter 5 should reference the intergovernmental working group on housing called for in UN-Habitat resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.7 of 6 July 2023 as one such mechanism for advancing progress on the realization of the right to adequate housing including homelessness.