

## GLASGOW MESSAGE

### LIVING IN THE CITY: ON ADEQUATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AS THE BASIS OF LIVING WELL

**Adopted by the UNECE Glasgow Conference on City Living on 13 September 2019**

1. We, the delegates to the UNECE Glasgow Conference on City Living, welcome the intergovernmental dialogue in support of the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, endorsed by UNECE on 16 April 2015.
2. We recognise and support that sustainable housing policies and programmes as a means for living should be understood through four principles:
  - (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 the implementation of housing policies considers cultural context and local conditions.
3. These four dimensions of housing policy should be addressed in an integrated manner. Through the application of an integrated approach, housing policies can support access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all.
4. We recognise and support that the people-centred principles of the UN Geneva Charter in turn support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Transforming Our World), leading towards the realisation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 11 (to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), and the New Urban Agenda. We reiterate and support the messages from colleagues expressed in the Vienna Declaration following the 2018 UNECE Conference.
5. To effectively implement the UN Geneva Charter, the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, effective policies and actions need to be developed and realised at all levels. We support and encourage vertical integration of these principles between the international community through national governments to regional and city level.
6. We recognise that a safe and secure home is the basic requirement of human life, but that living well in pursuit of the 17 SDGs is about much more. The communities, the city, the region of Glasgow and all of delegates are aware of the importance of this principle in implementing at the local level, the principles of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and pursuing the SDGs, particularly Goal 11 and the delivery of a living environment that supports wellness, green-blue infrastructure for climate change; and, wider cultural programmes including art, design and creativity across cities and regions. 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.

7. We also stress that to meet people's needs, secure and neutral tenure should be ensured, and that community-controlled delivery and management of housing should sit alongside government (local and national) and private sector provision of social housing. We urge that the needs of different groups of the population should be clearly recognised in housing policies in order to enhance social inclusion through socially mixed communities.
8. We emphasize 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 promote data collection for evidence-based housing policies, transparent statistics and a broad public debate about all aspects of the housing development.
9. We encourage all the member States and stakeholders of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management to continue the implementation process of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing in accordance with 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; the preparation of Country Profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (including respective Action Plans); and conducting and disseminating relevant research studies and demonstration projects.
10. We appreciate the opportunities for knowledge exchange and the dissemination of best practice offered through the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management as an intergovernmental and neutral platform in the UNECE Region.
11. We highlight the unique opportunity offered by the hosting of the UNFCCC COP26 in 2020 by the city of Glasgow, to highlight the critical role of affordable, healthy and energy efficient housing as well as smart and sustainable urban planning in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and cities and contributing to climate change mitigation. In this regard, we suggest that the UNECE and the municipality of Glasgow join forces to organize an event to raise the awareness of COP26 participants of the role and potential of housing and urban planning in climate change mitigation.
12. We express our gratitude, to the City of Glasgow, to the Geneva UN Charter Centre at the Glasgow Urban Laboratory (The Glasgow School of Art) and to the UNECE for the organisation of this conference together with partners Glasgow City-Region and the Academy of Urbanism.

\*\*\*\*\*

Glasgow, September 13, 2019