



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission for Social Development

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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development  
and the twenty-fourth special session of the General  
Assembly: priority Theme: Affordable housing and social  
protection systems for all to address homelessness**

### **Statement submitted by Business Innovation Research Dev, non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

### **What are effective and innovative solutions to address challenges faced by homeless people in our cities?**

« Dalo » law enabled a citizen in inadequate housing or deprived of housing to ‘enforce’ their right to housing from the State. The concept of ‘enforceability’ of the right to housing, in particular, requires identification of the authorities responsible for complying with and implementing this right; and establishment of an appeals process so that citizens can invoke their right before a third party who can oblige the relevant authority to implement their rights (an independent committee and the judge in the case). It is creating an obligation of result on the State.

- Equipping the law with resources: Financial penalties paid into a national fund and not to the victim in the case, represent a violation of the right to an effective remedy (Article 6 paragraph 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights).
- Housing emergency telephone number 115: Support and accommodation services for homeless people are generally delivered by NGOs that are funded by the state for ever-increasing numbers of homeless peoples, families and peoples experiencing housing deprivation

### **How can we promote public-private partnership to combat homelessness?**

International cooperation is not sufficiently fighting poverty: The development (FDI, agreed fundings for poor countries, rich countries are not generous, there is a lack of solidarity, and businesses are slow to act.)

Motivation of the world planet: When you look at the media, spending is for military efforts against terrorism, bombing cities and territorial occupations. These are likely to make peoples homeless. Citizens are under sieges by their own national security forces for their own protection or living in camps.

About leadership: there are no leaders today, a good number of them have been killed. Sainte Theresa of Calcutta said do not look for leader, make the change one to one. Thus, remaining issues are unemployment, debt, budget deficit and trade are top priorities, while poverty reduction is a least important priority.

Self-determination: Today, it is very difficult for a country to be independent or autonomous and as the High-Level Political Forums showed, there is no decoupling, linkages, humancentric endogenous/exogenous development. Also, Voluntary National Reporting are vain to believe it is easy for a country to quickly move from undeveloped to developed economies. The interconnection of financial market, exchange rates, money flows and actions taken by banks are impacting national economies, and the manner in which they set up budgets are impacting the most vulnerable peoples, such as those who are homeless. Governments are also burdened by the lack of finance.

Policy making and the business environment: The weakest states are very vulnerable when planning development, Financial donors are imposing restructuring, an agenda for financial recovery and refunds of the borrowed money. There are also efforts to address business and human rights issues, such as dark networks, unofficial markets, corruption, disguised monopolies, lack of investment in infrastructures and lobbies.

All these discrepancies are impacting on the future of housing,

Freedom: means the removal of poverty and tyranny, political freedom, social freedom and economic freedom.

Egoism/individualism: Homeless persons can be seen as threats and people to fear and not people to be helped.

What is the specific role of cities to ensure access to inclusive affordable housing for people of all ages and abilities?

The gap between the production model and the social model must be zero homeless persons and leaving nobody behind (in sustainable development).

Different options to call a house a house: the definition of housing, in this logic we have a house (in theory), but it is not sleeping house (a boat, a house can be just an administrative letter box, where the peoples are able to collect important documents). This administrative housing is legal and recognized by the court as a living place. More regular houses are where peoples effectively live with different prices, accessibilities.

Motivational factors and Maslow pyramid: Recent research appear to validate the existence of universal human needs, although the hierarchy proposed by Maslow is called into question. One can enter the pyramid at different levels. Therefore thus, it is a source of homelessness, particularly with peoples who have a different psychology.

Contingency factors; Land surface:

The problem of land surfaces: land is not being used sustainably. Cities represent 5 % of the earth surfaces, Soils are affected to alimentation and agriculture.

Licensing and speculation

Obtaining a license (municipality declaration) to build a house is more important than before. Housing regulations prevent people from building their own houses. The solution could be to construct houses where there is no need for license, and where there is less regulation with innovative materials (example of shipping containers).

Governmental advisories should be able to plan for the next 10 years

Choices should be made, and new directions taken: Strategy in the next 10 years with certainty and uncertainty for: production, social, future generations, republican model, regional organizations.

Ecological risks: Global warming, biodiversity losses, pollutions, country debts are systemic risks threatened housing development our financial model and it is a necessity to review our development model.

Debt is increasing and we cannot reach the economic and social target, so it is threatening future generation growth and today development. Needs for a new national consensus, with a wider public, with peoples who have less say, and are never consulted.

Carbon foot print: Urban planning aiming to integrate objectives of sustainable development and social equity and reduce the ecological footprint of a neighborhood, urban area, or region. Considerations of the whole environmental issues are made by way of a collaborative process.

Less formal housing is the relationship between the house and the environment

Eco district: the house is not polluting and can find all raw materials, resources and energies locally. There has been a substantial transformation in the design, method of delivery and scope for the care of homeless.

**How can cities mobilize various societal actors to prevent homelessness in the long term?**

Sustainable and affordable housing target is our issue in cities and preventing homelessness. We want to have housing immediately:

(a) Look at the environment and make small housing projects.

(b) House architecture is in relationship between the internal house and surrounding area. Variables are:

- Mobility (professional, spatial): Is « the man who is making the house or the house which is making the man »? Innovation depends on contexts and goals for sustainable work and employment to help ensure pathways to sustainable housing.
  - Housing origin (affordability, access): Peoples cultures and housing histories, linkages between generations, roles of money, transactions, raw materials are fueling house growths or pollutions.
  - Integrated housing: A house should be a global package of services for leisure or work. It is celebrating individual successes. For example, homeless people are walking long distances to satisfy their basic needs. (It is mindboggling)
  - Use of creativity: The house is firstly a pure creation of our mind and a desire (ambition) before the implementation.
  - Ownership rules (individual or collective): A house is always a transmission, which borrows from something or somewhere. We buy a house to live in, but we will have to live the house one day (at best at the end of our life)
  - Cost of inheritance (taxes): Housing is linked to a parent death or an ancestor, which inheritance can cost and depending on who you are will make the house affordability or not. Also, peoples are in relationship with dead persons (with the finance and the wealth of the dead person)
  - Family related history: Each family is a special case to bridge with the lost person.
  - Others: migration, country sovereignty, border control, change in law...Also, global warming.
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