

GUIDE TO PREPARING A HOUSING FINANCE STRATEGY

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A Housing Finance Strategy is a plan for deploying the resources available (and if needed increasing them) to finance the demand for housing by different segments of society. A Housing Finance Strategy is influenced by national, regional and sub-regional agendas and is linked to a wide range of other strategies and factors.

This guide sets out the key elements of a housing finance strategy and the process of developing a housing finance strategy, including the study of housing demand, identifying available resources, market forces and strategies to accomplishing housing finance goals and objectives. It provides assistance for member states on how to prepare successful housing finance strategies and action plans. It guides member states in their future housing finance planning and better positions themselves to meet market potentials and address the gap between demand and supply in housing finance.

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Guide to Preparing a Housing Finance Strategy

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FOREWORD

The global housing crisis, especially in the developing world, is getting worse by the day making the right to adequate shelter a quest that is becoming more and more difficult to meet, despite the targets set by the Millennium Development Goals.

Such is the rate of urbanization – the influx of people into towns and cities, and their natural growth – that the world has now reached a point where for the first time now, half the global population lives in towns and cities.

By the year 2050, six billion people – two-thirds of humanity – will be living in towns and cities. And as urban centres grow, the locus of global poverty is moving into towns and cities, especially into the burgeoning informal settlements and slums, of the developing world. In the developing world, this is happening so fast that slums are mushrooming in what is termed the urbanization of poverty.

This makes it imperative that we use every means at our disposal to ensure that we at UN-HABITAT, and our partners, keep applying ourselves to Target 11 of the Goals – to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

And for this, we need innovative governance, and local thinking and reporting if we are to bring hope to the urban poor. Equally importantly, we need to support our towns and cities, indeed



our countries, to adopt pro-poor policies and strategies that will obviate the need for further slum creation.

It is against this background, that the Human Settlements Financing Tools and Best Practices series focuses on the development of know-how, knowledge and tools in human settlements financing, from which Member States can learn in delivering affordable housing to the poor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Tibaijuka'.

Dr. Anna Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director
UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, 2008

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