

## **Durban Declaration**

### ***"Partnerships between Governments and Slum-dwellers, building a just society that ensures a better life for all"***

#### **Preamble**

We met in Durban South Africa, against a backdrop of a rapidly urbanizing world, where inaction on slums could mean that slum dwellers will grow to 1.5 billion by 2020 (according to UN-Habitat estimates). This will happen if there is no significant intervention to improve low-income householder access to adequate shelter, including secure tenure and proper provision for water and sanitation.

The Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11 seeks "to achieve by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers. But Millennium Development Goal 7 meets only 11% of existing needs and only 7% of future estimated needs by 2020. In other words by 2020, 1.4 billion will still be living in slums."

As slum dwellers, NGO's and governments, participating in this international workshop, we feel obliged to redouble our efforts to take joint responsibility for the restoration of the dignity of the poor and mobilise governments and organisations world over, to make the provision of access to shelter, potable water and sanitation as an urgent and first priority.

#### **Cape Town 2006**

In May 2006, delegates from 33 countries, representing slum-dwellers and governments assembled in Cape Town, South Africa to prepare for the World Urban Forum taking place in Vancouver in June 2006. The government of South Africa hosted this important event and since then, this initiative has been gathering momentum. One significant outcome has been establishment of the Urban Poor Fund – International, with over US\$100m pledged. The governments of India, Brazil, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Norway have nominated senior representatives of their governments to serve on the Board of Governors of the Fund.

#### **Durban 2008**

The dialogue started at the May 2006 conference in Cape Town has been further deepened to foster the collaboration between governments and organised slum dwellers in South America, Asia and Africa as witnessed by this gathering in Durban, South Africa.

#### **Partnerships**

Our vision for achieving better settlements is through real partnerships of slum dwellers and governments. We must address human settlement needs, not just access to land and housing. As we build our cities together, and in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals, we must work tirelessly towards ensuring

- Access to land and security of tenure for the urban poor;
- Sufficient funding for the provision of basic services;
- That economic growth is guided in a way that provides sustainable opportunities for all urban dwellers.

#### **Our Call to the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China**

1. One of the keys for change at scale is to recognize that all stakeholders be accountable to each other. Our aid agencies, our development finance institutions, our governments and non governmental organisations exist to address people's needs, including those of slum and shack dwellers.

2. Foster development with, and not for, the urban poor. Our aid agencies, and our development finance institutions need to consider how they can support partnerships between the state and slum dwellers. This means dialogue with slum dwellers as most have not even begun such dialogue.
3. Dialogue rather than prescription or militancy. Governments and slum/shack dwellers and their organizations to come forward to demonstrate their commitment to work with each other.
4. Minimise the conditions that lead to land invasions and evictions through appropriate and inclusive planning processes and legal frameworks, including consultations with the affected parties.
5. Develop financing systems that ensure active participation of organised slum dwellers, thereby harnessing their resources, knowledge and experiences.
6. To support learning and exchanges, so that all the key stakeholders including personnel from donor agencies, governments, NGOs and grassroots organizations, visit each other and learn from each other.
7. Finally, in order to develop, foster and deepen partnerships in all countries between governments and organised communities of the urban poor we collectively promote:
  - That incremental development towards affordable housing be acknowledged and facilitated through partnerships, to achieve sustainable and affordable housing for the very poor.
  - That financial mechanisms, including savings, need to be put in place to support the incremental development process, where government contributes to people's efforts to develop their land and mechanisms are developed to enable affordable finance for slum dwellers federations.
  - That accessibility of land for slum dwellers is facilitated through pro-poor legal, policy and procedural reforms, including shortening land acquisition and planning procedures and making planning processes inclusive to slum dwellers
  - That development standards and norms around technology, building material requirements, plot sizes, design and typology etc are responsive to the needs of the poor, making incremental housing feasible and affordable.

We the participants place on record, our heart felt appreciation to the government and the people of South Africa for hosting and sponsoring the international workshop which was organised the Slum Dwellers International.

**Accepted by the delegates and participants on October 12, 2008 in Durban, South Africa.**