

EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership Links with international commitments

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Summary

The EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership is one of four pilot partnerships established under the Pact of Amsterdam and within the framework of the EU Urban Agenda. The EU Urban Agenda aims to give an urban dimension to European policies and is part of wider EU efforts to implement international urban-related agreements. This paper examines the ways in which the EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership's work contribute to EU efforts to implement selected international agreements, notably the Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2030 Agenda), the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III), the Sendai Framework and the Paris Climate Agreement (COP21).



¹ Preferred quotation: Rosenfeld, O. (2018) 'The Housing Partnership links to the International Commitments', an analytical paper prepared for DG REGIO and the EU Urban Agenda Partnership for Housing, European Commission, DG REGIO, Brussels

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Introduction

The objective of this paper is to examine ways in which the EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership's work addresses commitments to selected international agreements notably, Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2030 Agenda), the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III), the Sendai Framework and the Paris Climate Agreement (COP21).

The Pact of Amsterdam² highlighted that 'the Urban Agenda for the EU will contribute to the implementation of the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the global **New Urban Agenda** as a part of the Habitat III process'. The endeavours to implement EU international commitments were further expanded in early 2017 to include (where relevant) the implementation of the **Paris Climate Agreement COP21** and the **Sendai Framework**. The first suggestions to consider cross-cutting issues including an international dimension appear in the first action plan templates (early- to mid-2016); the official requirement was clarified in early 2017, where the links to international commitments constitute section 4 of the template action plans.

As the requirement to link the work of the pilot partnerships with international commitments was introduced in early 2017 (a year after the establishment of the Housing Partnership), this paper presents an **ex post analysis**. The objective is to explore which aspects of the Housing Partnership's work addresses selected international commitments and their statements/targets.³

This paper is organized as follows: The first section briefly summarises the goals and objectives of the Housing Partnership and the themes covered. The second section presents the international commitments – the Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2030 Agenda), the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III), the Paris Climate Agreement (COP21) and the Sendai Framework. It focuses on presenting their hierarchy and interconnectedness. Section three explores and establishes links between the Housing Partnership work (see **Table 1**) and the relevant international commitments.

Method

The EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership is a pilot established in December 2015, six months prior to the official endorsement of the Pact of Amsterdam on 30th May 2016. While the Pact of Amsterdam clearly indicated that 'the Urban Agenda for the EU will contribute to the implementation of the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the global **New Urban Agenda** as a part of the Habitat III process', the requirement to demonstrate the

² The Pact of Amsterdam is a framework for the establishment of the EU Urban Agenda Partnership

³ It should be noted that this paper was prepared in the early stages of the action plan development, and before the planned action plan consultations. The actions that will have the true potential to contribute to the EU efforts to implement international agreements will be the actions approved by relevant stakeholders within the Partnership, wider public (online consultation), the relevant Commission directorates and the Member States.

manner in which the EU Urban Agenda Partnership's actions contribute to the implementation of the EU international commitments was officially communicated at a later stage of the EU Urban Agenda operation.

The implementation of international agreements generally entails a process of selection of relevant agreements and the development of programmes for their implementation in the relatively early stages of work. However, due to the nature of the evolution of the pilot EU Urban Agenda's work, it was not possible to follow this path in the case of the pilot partnerships. Therefore, this paper presents an **ex post analysis**. In other words, this paper explores potential ways in which the completed work of the Housing Partnership could relate to international commitments, such as the **Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2030 Agenda)**, the **New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)**, in addition to the **Paris Climate Agreement (COP21)** and the **Sendai Framework**.

This paper has been developed based on:

1. Analysis of the Partnership written communication between December 2015 and July 2018 (Including: draft action plans, discussion and other papers prepared by the partners and sub-groups written comments on the above, other email communication).
2. Observation of the Partnership work between September 2016 and July 2018 (including/ discussions and presentations at HP meetings)

Focus and delineation of the Housing Partnership's work

The Housing Partnership has identified a broad number of housing challenges that need attention through the process of brainstorming and delineation (for working methods, see document 'The working method of the EU Urban Agenda Partnership for Housing', made available on 20th March, 2017⁴). The strategic and time framework proposed by the Pact of Amsterdam requires focus and delineation in order to develop and define concrete actions (including action plans) and to implement them. The analysis of the Housing Partnership's work method in the period March 2016 - June 2017 suggests that it delineated its work area according to the needs communicated by its members, the members' prior work and background (including available resources) and professional experience in the housing sector (in their constituency).

It should be noted that the delineation of the Housing Partnership's work is a process. **The latest available analysis of the Housing Partnership's work suggests that the Housing Partnership aims to create better legal and financial conditions for EU cities that need to invest in new, renewed, affordable housing for their populations on a broad scale. More specifically, 'the focus of the Partnership is on the supply of affordable housing',⁵ including social housing, affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership.⁶**

It is important to highlight that this focus suggests a threefold delineation:

- (1) A **geographic focus** on cities;
- (2) A **focus on a specific section of the housing continuum**: affordable housing (incl. social housing, affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership);
- (3) A **focus on a specific set of activities** related to the supply of affordable housing (HP themes of interest).

The following sections explain the nature of this threefold focus and the themes that the Partnership chose to develop to achieve the above goal.

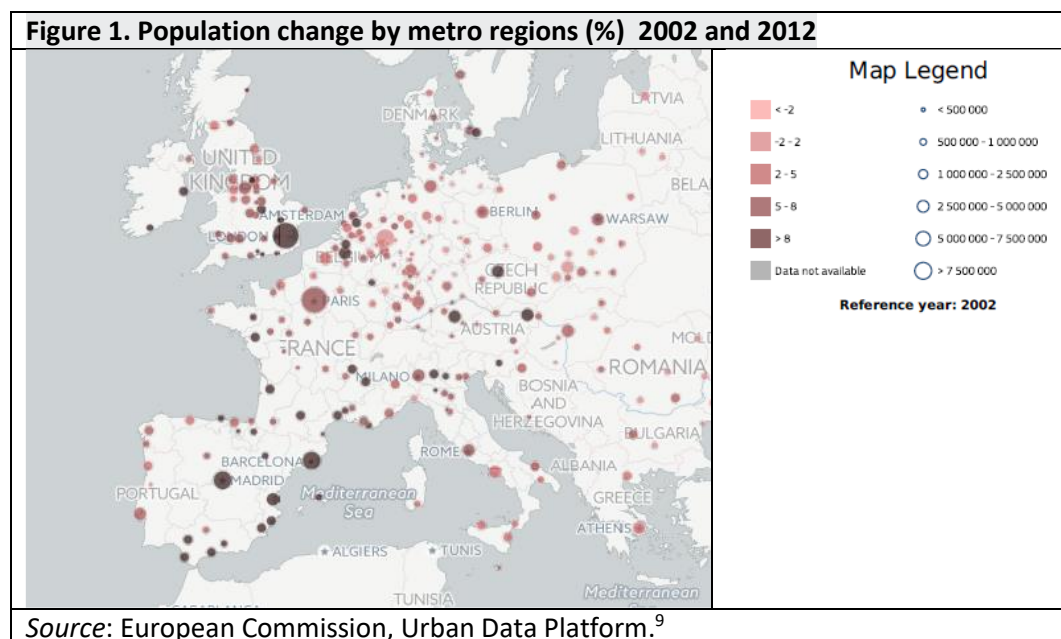
⁴ Rosenfeld, O. (2017) 'The working method of the EU Urban Agenda Partnership for Housing', an analytical paper prepared for DG REGIO and the EU Urban Agenda Partnership for Housing, European Commission, DG REGIO, Brussels

⁵ See Version 1 of the Housing Partnership draft action plan, dated 29th June 2016.

⁶ The selection of affordable housing options was established through the examination of the Partners' interpretation of the term 'affordable housing', their needs and priorities. See internal (draft) document 'Interpreting the term "affordable housing" in the Housing Partnership', made available to the Partnership on 20th March 2017.

1. Geographic focus: Cities as the focus of the EU Urban Agenda and the Housing Partnership

The shift towards a predominantly urban world makes the process of urbanization one of the most significant global trends of the 21st century (UN-Habitat, 2016). Indeed, European ‘cities and metropolitan areas are the motors of economic growth and home to most jobs. They play a key role as centres of innovation and the knowledge economy’.⁷ According to the Pact of Amsterdam, ‘the European Union is one of the most urbanized areas in the world. Today, more than 70% of Europe’s citizens live in an Urban Area’.⁸ Within the urban population in Europe, there is a trend towards urban concentration and agglomeration into large cities and metropolitan areas. This has been intensified since the Global Financial Crisis, which led to changes in employment trends and availability. **Figure 1.** shows the percentage of population change in European metropolitan areas between 2002 and 2012.



In order to provide the concrete Housing Partnership with relevant illustrations of the trends presented in **Figure 1.**, **Table 1.** below shows the change in total population in the same period for selected Housing Partnership members (cities and Member States only).

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/guides/2009/promoting-sustainable-urban-development-in-europe-achievements-and-opportunities

⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/policy/themes/urban-development/agenda/pact-of-amsterdam.pdf

⁹ <http://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?ind=popmchange&ru=metro&s=0&c=1&m=0&f=1&p=HR001M&swLat=34.74161249883172&swLng=-41.66015625&neLat=57.89149735271034&neLng=78.3984375>

These illustrations show that the agglomeration trends in capital and large cities are significant, both in the European countries that have marked net growth of population. It should be noted that in case population fall occurs, it is lower than the national average.¹⁰

Table 1. Change in total population in Member States and cities represented in the Housing Partnership (2002 to 2012) (for illustration only)

Housing Partnership member	Country	Percentage of population change (national)	City (large/capital)	Percentage of population change (city)
Vienna (city)	Austria	4%	Vienna	9%
Riga (city)	Latvia	-12%	Riga	-7%
Luxembourg (MS)	Luxembourg	17%	Luxembourg	17%
Netherlands (MS)	Netherlands	4%	Amsterdam	8%
Poznan (city)	Poland	0%	Poznan	5%
Lisbon (city)	Portugal	1%	Lisbon	5%
Slovakia (MS)	Slovakia	1%	Bratislava	2%
Slovenia (MS)	Slovenia	3%	Ljubljana	9%

The agglomeration leads to an increased demand for housing in urban areas and cities gaining population. The increased demand leads to an increase in housing prices. This in turn leads to an increased need for affordable housing. Cities are affected by the housing crisis in a specific way; more economically successful cities have higher housing prices (across tenures) and therefore seem to exhibit greater challenges with regard to access to affordable housing. In cities, the occurrence of housing cost overburden is higher than the national average and affects a wider section of the population. Therefore, the agglomeration process leads not only to an increased demand for housing but may lead to increased inequality in cities which could challenge overall territorial cohesion. Local housing prices and access to affordable housing play key roles in this process.

While some cities are facing a housing backlog and pressure on the housing markets, others will soon be facing an even bigger housing challenge – deterioration of the existing housing stock and the continued shrinkage of household size. In successful cities (with employment opportunities), the housing deficit, with demand outpacing supply, is destined to intensify today’s lack of housing affordability if the pre-GFC policies are not changed. These are some of the concerns addressed by the partnership.

As the population in Europe gravitates toward capital cities and metropolitan areas,¹¹ urbanization intensifies the need for city-focused housing in Europe. The EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership **aims to create better legal and financial conditions for EU**

¹⁰ It should also be noted that there is equally a countervailing trend towards shrinking cities within less successful and more remote regions where the population is declining. This often goes along with ageing, as the young and/or highly qualified leave.

¹¹<http://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?ind=popmchange&ru=metro&s=0&c=1&m=0&f=1&p=HR001M&swLat=34.74161249883172&swLng=-41.66015625&neLat=57.89149735271034&neLng=78.3984375>

cities who need to invest in new, renewed, affordable housing for their populations on a broad scale.

2. Focus on a specific section of the housing continuum: Affordable housing options as the focus of the Housing Partnership's work

The lack of affordable housing has been recognized as one of the most challenging outcomes of the Global Financial Crisis (see Eurostat, 2015; UNECE, 2015; OECD, 2017). In Europe, over 80 million households face a significant housing cost overburden:¹² they spend at least 40 % of their income on housing costs.¹³ The concept of 'affordable housing' is central to the work of the EU Urban Agenda Partnership on Housing. As noted in the Pact of Amsterdam, the focus of the Housing Partnership was to be on 'public *affordable housing*, state aid rules and general housing policy'.¹⁴ The early draft of the Housing Partnership action plan provided by the Dutch Presidency (followed by the Government of Slovakia (Coordinator)), states that 'the primary objective of the EU Urban Agenda Partnership on Housing is "ensuring an adequate supply of good quality *affordable housing* across European Member States"'.¹⁵

However, national housing systems are culturally specific, context-dependent and take different forms across Europe. Consequently, the term 'affordable housing' is interpreted in different ways. The EU Urban Agenda Partnership Housing Partnership notes an absence of 'official', 'policy' and/or 'legal' definition of the term 'affordable housing' in their constituency.¹⁵

In order to operationalize this concept in its work, the Housing Partnership examined the ways in which the term 'affordable housing' is interpreted by the members of the EU Urban Agenda Partnership on Housing. Based on the results of the examination, the Partnership decided to adopt an inclusive approach to the interpretation of the term

¹² According to Eurostat: The **housing cost overburden rate** is the percentage of the population living in households where the total housing costs ('net' of housing allowances) represent more than 40 % of disposable income ('net' of housing allowances).

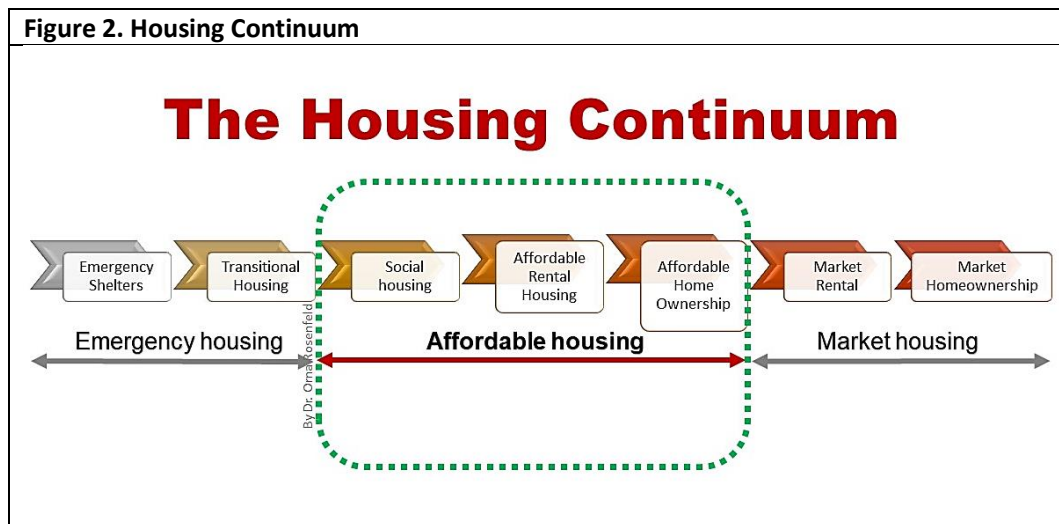
¹³ Eurostat highlights that the housing cost overburden affects all tenures, illustrating the rising and increasingly diversified housing need. According to Eurostat, 11.3% of the EU-28 population lived in households that spent 40% or more of their equivalised disposable income on housing in 2015.

¹⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/policy/themes/urban-development/agenda/pact-of-amsterdam.pdf

¹⁵ Partners who explicitly wrote that they do not have an official definition in their constituency are: Slovenia, Slovakia, Lisbon (Portugal), Riga (Latvia), Poznan (Poland), the Netherlands, AEDES, Housing Europe, URBACT and Luxembourg. For the complete report see: Rosenfeld, O. (2017) 'Analysis of interpretations of the term affordable housing in the EU Urban Agenda Partnership for Housing', a briefing note prepared for DG REGIO and the EU Urban Agenda Partnership for Housing, European Commission, DG REGIO, Brussels

(rather than a single and potentially limiting definition) **including: social housing, affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership.**

The Housing Continuum **Figure 2** (below) presents the schematic overview of most common housing tenures and the specific part of the housing tenures that the Housing Partnership addresses. The term ‘**housing continuum**’ refers to the range of **housing** options, from emergency shelters and transitional **housing**, to social and limited-profit affordable **housing**, to market rental, to home ownership. In theory, all the housing tenures (and their options) can be affordable or unaffordable; this depends on the nature of the local housing need and nature of the local housing market. As noted in **Figure 1** and this paper, affordable housing as a section of the housing continuum receives various forms of public support (see area circled green). However, it has been argued that this support is limited considering current housing needs in Europe.



In general, terms, the Partnership strives to shift housing policies from those favoring one housing tenure¹⁶ to tenure-balanced policies. From this point of view, the tenure supply should depend on local housing needs and local housing market dynamics. In the process of definition and delineation of its work focus, the partnership highlighted the importance of supply of selected affordable housing options, including : social housing, affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership.

3. Focus on specific sets of activities: Housing Partnership themes of interest

In line with the central aim of the EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership - ‘to ensure an adequate supply of good quality affordable housing across European Member States,

¹⁶ It should be noted that the housing policies prior to the GFC had a general preference for home ownership (please see UNECE< 2015 for detailed discussion).

including: social housing, affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership’ - the housing partnership has selected themes and actions to achieve this aim, and is in the process of defining them. The delineation of the Housing Partnership’s work, including a selection of priority themes and the formulation of concrete actions for the Housing Partnership action plan, was achieved through a comprehensive five-stage approach (see The working method of the EU Urban Agenda Partnership for Housing¹⁷). **Table 2** presents themes selected and examined by the Housing Partnership, including the Partners specifically involved in each.

Table 2. Themes examined by the Housing Partnership and organisation of the Partnership’s work into subgroups¹⁸			
Subgroup	Themes covered	Partners involved	Coordinator
Group 1. State Aid	a. State Aid, Competition Law, Definition of SGEI. b. VAT issues	MS : SK Cities : Vienna, Lisbon, Eurocities HP : HE, AEDES, IUT EU : EIB, EU Commission	The City of Vienna
Group 2. Finance and Funding	a. Investments and instruments, loans, innovative funding b. ‘Golden rule’, European semester.	MS : the Netherlands. Cities : Lisbon, Poznan, Riga, SCA. HP : HE, AEDES EU : EIB, URBACT, EU Commission	Scottish Cites Alliance
Group 3. Housing Policy	Part a. a. Land use, spatial planning; building ground (land), anti- speculation. b. Renovation, energy efficiency; Part b. a. Security of tenure, b. Rent stabilization c. Co-management, co- design; d. Support for vulnerable groups.	MS : Luxembourg, Slovakia. Cities : Lisbon, Vienna Riga, SCA. HP : HE, IUT EU : URBACT, EU Commission	Part a. Housing Europe Part b. Slovakia and IUT

The analysis of the themes shows that the work of the Partnership is concentrated on the supply of selected affordable housing options and ensuring sustainable access to them

¹⁷ Rosenfeld, O. (2017) ‘The working method of the EU Urban Agenda Partnership for Housing’, an analytical paper prepared for DG REGIO and the EU Urban Agenda Partnership for Housing, European Commission, DG REGIO, Brussels

¹⁸ **Disclaimer:** The Partnership acknowledges that the themes selected do not cover the entire housing field in the EU. The selected themes were selected based on the expertise and ability (including human and other resources) of the members of the Partnership to address and implement them within the period envisaged by the Pact of Amsterdam.

after delivery (as defined in section ‘Focus 1. Affordable housing’) (see **Figure 3** below). The following section briefly explains these themes and links them into a narrative around housing supply.

Figure 3.

Themes ensuring sustainable access to supplied housing.

Themes addressing supply of affordable housing, including: social housing, affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership



As briefly indicated earlier in this paper, the lack of social and affordable housing has been highlighted as one of the most critical results of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) internationally (see UNECE, 2015; OECD, 2017). Over 80 million Europeans face a housing cost overburden that forces them to commit more than 40% of their family budget to housing.

In the period preceding the GFC, homeownership was a preferred policy option. In the same period, the importance of social and private rented housing decreased, along with the stock and funding dedicated to it. Raising awareness about the benefits of affordable housing is one of the first steps that the Partnership undertook. **The Housing Partnership (sub-group 3.) addresses this issue through increasing knowledge about the affordable housing sector.** The Affordable Housing **Toolkit** presents innovative affordable housing practices along with important services that allow people in housing need to access affordable housing and sustain it.

The second key concern of the Housing Partnership is **unblocking the available investment in various affordable housing options, based on specific local market need.** Based on their long-term practical experience, the Housing Partnership members note that **State Aid, Competition Law, Definition of SGEI (Sub-group 1)**, along with those of the **EU Semester (sub-group 2)**, tend to hamper investment in social housing in cities,

even in cases where the funding is available. The Housing Partnership Sub-group 1. is working to make the State Aid available for affordable housing for broad group of population by suggesting amendments to the State Aid rules and producing guidance papers.

The review of social housing investment trends since the 1980s indicates a steady decline. While this move may have been appropriate in the period of economic growth, the reported housing need post-GFC, along with continued migration toward European Cities in search for employment, prompted a revision of this pre-GFC approach. **The Housing Partnership Sub-group 2 examines innovative financial mechanisms to support various affordable housing options** (as defined by the partnerships), with particular regard to the needs of post-socialist and traditionally free markets. The Sub-group proposed actions to address the gaps identified in affordable housing finance and to augment the provision of innovative financial options in order to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Apart from the lack of affordable housing funding and finance, the lack of access to affordable land (at times the largest expense in the delivery of housing in general, and affordable housing in particular) has been reported by the Housing Partnership members Sub-group 3 addresses this issue through **examining the ways in which spatial planning can increase access to land for affordable housing**.

The Housing Partnership also developed recommendations concerning **safeguards against land and property speculation** (Sub-group 3). This is especially important in order to ensure that the affordable housing provided remains within reach of those in housing need locally. While Sub-group 3a examines the issue from the perspective of property development and property trade, Sub-group 3b examines the issue from the tenants' perspective. This Sub-group examines **ways to regulate rents and ensure their sustained affordability while ensuring security of tenure**.

While the housing supply may invoke assumptions about new construction only, in the context of the Housing Partnership it also refers to access to existing housing. Low-quality, unmaintained housing with low energy efficiency does not represent an efficient housing supply. In the worst cases, this housing is abandoned or squatted. Low-quality existing housing that is severely dilapidated because of the above challenges, can be considered as 'non-effective housing supply'. **In order to keep the existing housing in the pool of effective housing supply, it is important to ensure its maintenance and renovation (including energy efficiency)**. Sub-group 3b is examining these issues.

Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda and other international commitments

Endorsed on May 30th, 2016, the Pact of Amsterdam is the framework for the EU Urban Agenda Partnerships. The Pact made a commitment to contribute to the implementation of selected international commitments as follows:

*The Urban Agenda for the EU will contribute to the implementation of the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, notably Goal 11 'Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' and the global '**New Urban Agenda**' as part of the Habitat III process. (The Pact of Amsterdam, 2016, para 8.)¹⁹*

The aim of this section is to provide a short introduction to the EU international commitments, noted in the Pact of Amsterdam, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2030 Agenda) and the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III). In line with the evolution of the work of the EU Urban Agenda Partnership, this document also explores links with other international commitments, such as the Paris Climate Agreement (COP21) and the Sendai Framework. **Annex 1** provides information on each of the international commitments.

However, in order to assess and indicate how, as one of 12 partnerships, the Housing Partnership actions address the statements/targets of these international commitments, it is important to understand how (and if) these commitments are related and their hierarchical order. The hierarchy of the documents can clarify their level of detail and manner of potential implementation (and in turn link with concrete actions of the EU Urban Agenda Partnerships). It should be noted that high-level documents, such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aim to capture and address broad areas of international interest. The documents lower down the hierarchy are more detailed and address specific issues. For example, COP21 addresses climate change issues, while the Sendai Framework focuses on disaster risk reduction. While still broad, these documents address more specific areas of interest and intervention. They could be also understood to provide an elaboration of the selected SDGs. **Figure 4** presents a hierarchy of international commitments in relation to the EU Urban Agenda and specific partnerships (in this case, the Housing Partnership).

The overall framework of the recent international agreements is the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Designed by the United Nations through a collaborative process involving its 193 Member States, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)²⁰ are a set of 17 'Global Goals' with 169 targets.²¹ The Resolution is a broader

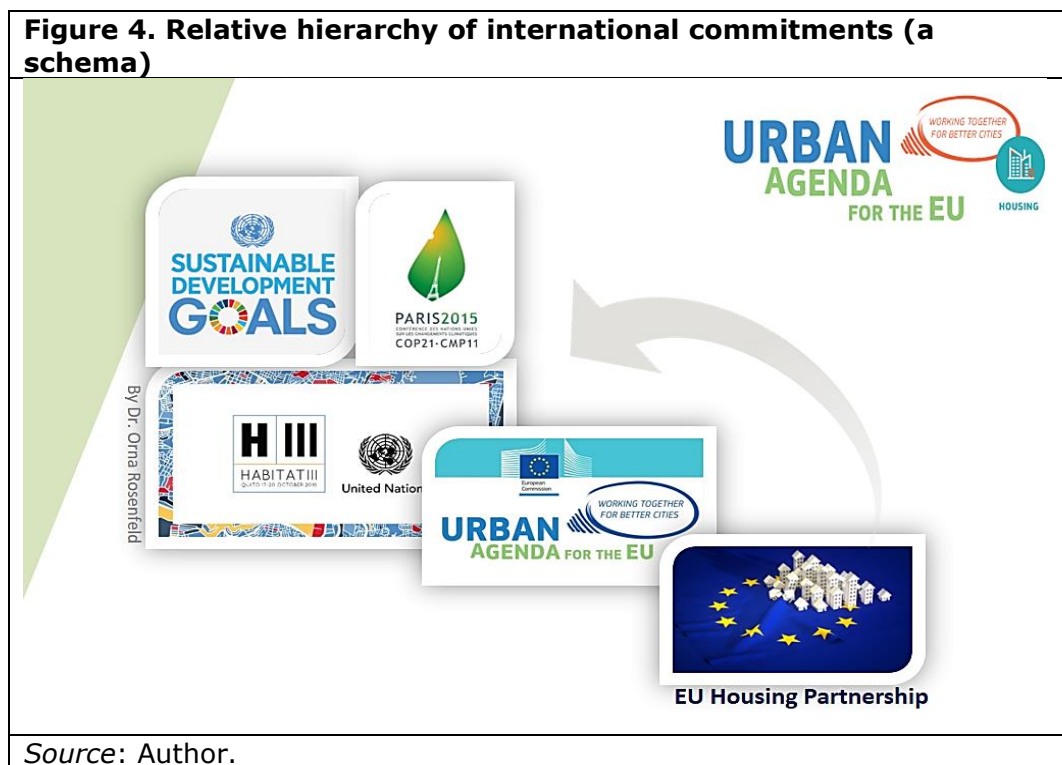
¹⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/policy/themes/urban-development/agenda/pact-of-amsterdam.pdf

²⁰ The goals are contained in paragraph 54 United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015

²¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

intergovernmental agreement that acts as the Post 2015 Development Agenda (successor to the Millennium Development Goals).

The New Urban Agenda is a very important cornerstone in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which began with the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015, and other milestone reform agendas, in particular the Paris Agreement'.²² In other words, the New Urban Agenda and Sendai Framework are subordinate to Sustainable Development Goals; for this reason they are more detailed in terms of the statements/targets they propose. In the recent development of the New Urban Agenda, specific efforts were made to provide a document that is actionable and implementable.



The EU Urban Agenda was designed to enable cities to have their say in policy-making.²³ As such, the Urban Agenda for the EU and the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) share the same vision for balanced, sustainable and integrated urban development. In the context of the U.N. Habitat III conference, the European Commission committed itself to meet the New Urban Agenda's (Habitat III) global objectives.

In context of the housing theme in general, the EU Urban Agenda presents a key anchor between the high level commitments such as Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda), and specialised ones such as the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework. In Annex 1, additional details are provided on each of the international

²² http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3477_en.htm

²³ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3477_en.htm

commitments. The potential links between these and Housing Partnership work are also examined.

Examining the links between the Housing Partnership's work and relevant international commitments

This section explores the links between the work of the Housing Partnership and international commitments, notably the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework. The work of the EU Urban Agenda Partnerships goes beyond the immediate implementation of the defined actions. Through the provisions of the Pact of Amsterdam, and the links of this document to international commitments, the Partnerships are expected to contribute to the implementation of the EU international commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP21), among others.

The overall links between the Housing Partnership focus and the international commitments is developed through an examination on three levels:

- (1) **geographic focus**
- (2) **partnership focus:** focus on a specific section of the housing continuum
- (3) **thematic focus:** focus on a specific set of themes (see **Table 2**)

1. Geographic Focus

A recent analysis of Partnership communication seems to suggest that the Housing Partnership work focuses on cities;²⁴ it aims to create better legal and financial conditions for EU cities that need to invest in new, renewed, affordable housing for their populations. With regard to its geographic focus addressed in this section, it has the potential to contribute to the implementation of the goals of international documents that put cities at the centre of their agendas.²⁵ In the following section, key international documents and their goals relating to cities are noted.

In 2015, the UN General Assembly formally accepted a new set of 17 measurable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),²⁶ ranging from ending world poverty to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls by 2030. The Agenda was agreed by 193 Member States of the UN in September 2015. This document first recognized the importance of cities and towns, which will constitute up to 70% of the

²⁴ It should be noted that the two available draft action plans (dated 2016) mention 'cities', but it is not clear how and if the proposed actions address the housing issue on this geographic level. The Partnership has an opportunity to explain this issue in the new action plan.

²⁵ The final assessment depends on the nature of concrete actions put forward by the Partnership, and the manner of their implementation.

²⁶ These are to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight measurable goals which were signed in September 2000.

world's population by 2050.²⁷ While it could be argued that all the SDGs are relevant to cities, Goal 11 is specifically dedicated to them.

SDG Goal 11: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'

According to UN-Habitat, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, 'should be seen as an extension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.²⁸ Habitat III offered a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenges of how cities and towns, as well as villages, can be planned and managed in order to fulfil their role as drivers of sustainable development, and how they can shape the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change.²⁹

Significantly, the New Urban Agenda expands the UN member states' commitment to cities. In terms of the Partnership's focus on cities and housing in cities, two NUA articles are especially relevant. The first underlines the relevance and importance of the focus on cities considering the overall global trends, while the second sets out broad aspirations related to the realization of the right to adequate housing in cities.

Article 2. By 2050, the world's urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the twenty-first century's most transformative trends. Populations, economic activities, social and cultural interactions, as well as environmental and humanitarian impacts, are increasingly concentrated in cities, and this poses massive sustainability challenges in terms of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety and natural resources, among others.

Article 13a. We envisage cities and human settlements that: Fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air quality and livelihoods.

The New Urban Agenda and the Urban Agenda for the EU share the same vision for balanced, sustainable and integrated urban development. The EU Urban Agenda stresses that 'urban authorities play a crucial role in the daily life of all EU citizens' and that 'the success of European sustainable urban development is highly important for the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the European Union and the quality of life of its citizens'.³⁰ According to the Pact of Amsterdam, **the Urban Agenda for the EU was**

²⁷ <https://unhabitat.org/new-urban-agenda-adopted-at-habitat-iii/>

²⁸ http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55360#.WT0z_miGPIU

²⁹ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/>

³⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/policy/themes/urban-development/agenda/pact-of-amsterdam.pdf

designed for cities to have a say in policy-making. The work of the 12 Partnerships is key to the EU Urban Agenda's implementation.

When accessing the potential of the Housing Partnership work to contribute to the implementation of the aforementioned international commitments, the basic requirement is to examine and ensure that HP geographic focus is in line with that of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (and by extension the EU Urban Agenda).

As noted earlier in this paper, the latest Partnership communication (the Coordinator) suggests that the EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership **'aims to create better legal and financial conditions for EU cities that need to invest in new, renewed, affordable housing for their populations'**.

In terms of the overall geographic focus, that the work of the Housing Partnership is clearly in line with the recent international commitments related to housing.

2. Partnership Focus: focus on a specific section of the housing continuum

As noted in the Pact of Amsterdam, the focus of the Housing Partnership was to be on *'public affordable housing, state aid rules and general housing policy'*.³¹ The section *'Focus on a specific section of the housing continuum: Affordable housing options as the focus of the Housing Partnership work'*, further examined the delineation of the Housing Partnership's work in terms of the specific types of affordable housing it addresses.

This section aims to assess the potential of the Housing Partnership's overall goal (and specific housing focus) to address international commitments and possibly contribute to their implementation. **This section presents an ex post analysis,**³² which establishes the links between the work of the Housing Partnership and the international commitments, and assesses the potential of the issues concerning the Housing Partnership to contribute to implementing the international commitments.

As in the previous section, the assessment of such potential starts with the relevant SDGs and progresses toward international commitments lower in the hierarchy (i.e. NUA). As noted previously, SDG 11 focuses specifically on cities. While other targets (under SDG 11) may be relevant to housing, 11.1 is the only SDG target to mention housing explicitly.

SDG target 11.1: *By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums*³³

³¹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/policy/themes/urban-development/agenda/pact-of-amsterdam.pdf

³² It should be noted that the requirement to establish such links in the Partnerships Action Plans was communicated after the Housing Partnership (pilot) began its work.

³³ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

While the SDGs limit their coverage of housing issues to the above, housing and urban development issues are further developed in the New Urban Agenda.

The New Urban Agenda significantly expands the UN Member States' commitment to housing. **Housing is addressed in 24 out of 175 articles** (See **Annex 2**). While housing is not the responsibility of the European Union, the Housing Partnership presents a unique opportunity to highlight the importance of this issue for European cities within the EU Urban Agenda and to advance its implementation.

An examination of the Housing Partnership's work suggests that the Partnership has a significant capacity to contribute to the implementation of the above-noted EU international commitments. In line with the goals and objectives of the Pact of Amsterdam, the EU Urban Agenda work on housing (as a theme) may contribute to the implementation of the NUA Articles 106, 31 and NUA Article 105, which stress the need for the development and advancement of housing policy at all levels:

Article 106. We will promote housing policies based on the principles of social inclusion, economic effectiveness and environmental protection. We will support the effective use of public resources for affordable and sustainable housing, including land in central and consolidated areas of cities with adequate infrastructure, and encourage mixed-income development to promote social inclusion and cohesion.

Article 31. We commit ourselves to promoting national, subnational and local housing policies that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living [...]

Article 105. We will develop and implement housing policies at all levels, incorporating participatory planning, and applying the principle of subsidiarity, as appropriate, in order to ensure coherence among national, subnational, and local development strategies, land policies and housing supply [...]

In terms of the Partnership's overall goal and commitment to increase the supply of affordable housing, the potential is identified to address and possibly contribute to the implementation of NUA Article 33, which emphasizes *inter alia* the importance of stimulating the supply of adequate housing for different income groups in society:

Article 33. We commit ourselves to stimulating the supply of a variety of adequate housing options that are safe, affordable and accessible for members of different income groups of society, taking into consideration the socio-economic and cultural integration of marginalized communities, homeless persons and those in vulnerable situations and preventing segregation [...].

Considering the Partnership's focus on affordable housing and its commitment to the provision of a rich variety of affordable housing options, the work of the Partnership has the potential to help implement one of the crucial commitments noted in the New Urban Agenda – NUA Article 14a and Article 107.

Article 14 (part a) refers to: *'Providing equal access to all to physical and social infrastructure and basic services as well as adequate affordable housing'*.

Article 107 promotes commitment to a wide range of affordable, sustainable housing options, as noted below.

Article 107. We will encourage developing policies, tools, mechanisms, and financing models that promote access to a wide range of affordable, sustainable housing options including rental and other tenure options, as well as cooperative solutions such as co-housing, community land trust, and other forms of collective tenure, that would address the evolving needs of persons and communities, in order to improve the supply of housing [...] This will include support to incremental housing and self-build schemes [...].

3. Focus on concrete actions proposed by the Partnership

In addition to its geographic focus, its focus on a specific section of the housing continuum and its focus on a specific set of housing themes, the Partnership has the potential to contribute additional NUA articles through specific actions it has defined. **Table 3** establishes the links between the relevant NUA articles and specific actions proposed by the Housing Partnership. The list is arranged in descending numerical order of the NUA articles. The actions identified as having the capacity to contribute to the implementation of a part of/ a whole article are noted in the right column.

Table 3. Links between the actions of the Housing Partnership and the relevant New Urban Agenda Articles	
New Urban Agenda Articles	Contributing Housing Partnership actions
Article 14c Ensure environmental sustainability by promoting clean energy and sustainable use of land and resources in urban development, by protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, including adopting healthy lifestyles in harmony with nature, by promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, by building urban resilience, by reducing disaster risks and by mitigating and adapting to climate change.	<p>Action 7: Monitoring system for affordable housing in the European Union</p> <p>Action 10: Recommendations on improvement of EU gender-poverty-energy nexus data</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>
Article 31. We commit ourselves to promoting national, subnational and local housing policies that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, that address all forms of discrimination and violence and prevent arbitrary forced evictions and that focus on the needs of the homeless, persons in vulnerable situations, low-income groups and persons with disabilities, while enabling the participation and	<p>Action 7: Monitoring system for affordable housing in the European Union</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>

<p>engagement of communities and relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of these policies, including supporting the social production of habitat, according to national legislation and standards.</p>	
<p>Article 32. We commit ourselves to promoting the development of integrated and age- and gender-responsive housing policies and approaches across all sectors, in particular the employment, education, health-care and social integration sectors, and at all levels of government — policies and approaches that incorporate the provision of adequate, affordable, accessible, resource-efficient, safe, resilient, well-connected and well-located housing, with special attention to the proximity factor and the strengthening of the spatial relationship with the rest of the urban fabric and the surrounding functional areas.</p>	<p>Action 7: Monitoring system for affordable housing in the European Union</p> <p>Action 10: Recommendations on improvement of EU gender-poverty-energy nexus data</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>
<p>Article 33. We commit ourselves to stimulating the supply of a variety of adequate housing options that are safe, affordable and accessible for members of different income groups of society, taking into consideration the socioeconomic and cultural integration of marginalized communities, homeless persons and those in vulnerable situations and preventing segregation. We will take positive measures to improve the living conditions of homeless people, with a view to facilitating their full participation in society, and to prevent and eliminate homelessness, as well as to combat and eliminate its criminalization.</p>	<p>Action 7: Monitoring system for affordable housing in the European Union</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>
<p>Article 34. We commit ourselves to promoting equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, health care and family planning, education, culture, and information and communications technologies. We further commit ourselves to ensuring that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of women, children and youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, and to those of others in vulnerable situations. In this regard, we encourage the elimination of legal, institutional, socioeconomic and physical barriers.</p>	<p>Action 7: Monitoring system for affordable housing in the European Union</p> <p>Action 10: Recommendations on improvement of EU gender-poverty-energy nexus data</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>

<p>Article 35 We commit ourselves to promoting, at the appropriate level of government, including subnational and local government, increased security of tenure for all, recognizing the plurality of tenure types, and to developing fit-for-purpose and age-, gender- and environment-responsive solutions within the continuum of land and property rights, with particular attention to security of land tenure for women as key to their empowerment, including through effective administrative systems.</p>	<p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>
<p>Article 44 We recognize that urban form, infrastructure and building design are among the greatest drivers of cost and resource efficiencies, through the benefits of economy of scale and agglomeration and by fostering energy efficiency, renewable energy, resilience, productivity, environmental protection and sustainable growth in the urban economy.</p>	<p>Action 10: Recommendations on improvement of EU gender-poverty-energy nexus data</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>
<p>Article 46. We commit ourselves to promoting the role of affordable and sustainable housing and housing finance, including social habitat production, in economic development, and the contribution of the sector to stimulating productivity in other economic sectors, recognizing that housing enhances capital formation, income, employment generation and savings and can contribute to driving sustainable and inclusive economic transformation at the national, subnational and local levels.</p>	<p>Action 11: Recommendations on EU-Funding of affordable housing</p> <p>Action 12: Recommendations on the European Semester and affordable housing</p>
<p>Article 88. We will ensure coherence between goals and measures of sectoral policies, inter alia, rural development, land use, food security and nutrition, management of natural resources, provision of public services, water and sanitation, health, environment, energy, housing and mobility policies, at different levels and scales of political administration, across administrative borders and considering the appropriate functional areas, in order to strengthen integrated approaches to urbanization and implement integrated urban and territorial planning strategies that factor them in.</p>	<p>Action 9: Recommendations on Improvement of EU urban housing market data</p>
<p>Article 95. We will support the implementation of integrated, polycentric and balanced territorial development policies and plans, encouraging cooperation and mutual support among different scales of cities and human settlements, strengthening the role of small and intermediate</p>	<p>Action 6: Exchange programme for urban housing professionals</p>

<p>cities and towns in enhancing food security and nutrition systems, providing access to sustainable, affordable, adequate, resilient and safe housing, infrastructure and services, facilitating effective trade links across the urban-rural continuum and ensuring that small-scale farmers and fishers are linked to local, subnational, national, regional and global value chains and markets. We will also support urban agriculture and farming, as well as responsible, local and sustainable consumption and production, and social interactions, through enabling and accessible networks of local markets and commerce as an option for contributing to sustainability and food security</p>	
<p>Article 99. We will support the implementation of urban planning strategies, as appropriate, that facilitate a social mix through the provision of affordable housing options with access to quality basic services and public spaces for all, enhancing safety and security and favouring social and intergenerational interaction and the appreciation of diversity. We will take steps to include appropriate training and support for service delivery professionals and communities in areas affected by urban violence.</p>	<p>Action 4: Affordable housing good practice database</p> <p>Action 5: Policy guidance for supply of social and affordable housing in Europe</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>
<p>Article 105. We will foster the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living. We will develop and implement housing policies at all levels, incorporating participatory planning and applying the principle of subsidiarity, as appropriate, in order to ensure coherence among national, subnational and local development strategies, land policies and housing supply.</p>	<p>Action 1: Guidance on EU regulation and public support for housing</p> <p>Action 2: Capacity building for application of state aid rules in affordable housing sector at a city level</p> <p>Action 3: Revision of the SGEI decision with regard to the narrow target group of social housing</p> <p>Action 7: Monitoring system for affordable housing in the European Union</p> <p>Action 9: Recommendations on Improvement of EU urban housing market data</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance</p>

	on local, regional, national and EU level
Article 107. We will encourage the development of policies, tools, mechanisms and financing models that promote access to a wide range of affordable, sustainable housing options, including rental and other tenure options, as well as cooperative solutions such as co-housing, community land trusts and other forms of collective tenure that would address the evolving needs of persons and communities, in order to improve the supply of housing (especially for low-income groups), prevent segregation and arbitrary forced evictions and displacements and provide dignified and adequate reallocation. This will include support to incremental housing and self-build schemes, with special attention to programmes for upgrading slums and informal settlements.	<p>Action 11: Recommendations on EU-Funding of affordable housing</p> <p>Action 12: Recommendations on the European Semester and affordable housing</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>
Article 111. We will promote the development of adequate and enforceable regulations in the housing sector, including, as applicable, resilient building codes, standards, development permits, land-use by-laws and ordinances, and planning regulations, combating and preventing speculation, displacement, homelessness and arbitrary forced evictions and ensuring sustainability, quality, affordability, health, safety, accessibility, energy and resource efficiency, and resilience. We will also promote differentiated analysis of housing supply and demand based on high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data at the national, subnational and local levels, considering specific social, economic, environmental and cultural dimensions.	<p>Action 9: Recommendations on Improvement of EU urban housing market data</p> <p>Action 10: Recommendations on improvement of EU gender-poverty-energy nexus data</p> <p>Recommendations on Good Housing Policy and Governance on local, regional, national and EU level</p>
Article 140. We will support the development of appropriate and affordable housing finance products and encourage the participation of a diverse range of multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and development finance institutions, cooperation agencies, private sector lenders and investors, cooperatives, moneylenders and microfinance banks to invest in affordable and incremental housing in all its forms.	Action 11: Recommendations on EU-Funding of affordable housing

Finally, the Housing Partnership’s work is identified as having the capacity to contribute to the implementation of an article of the Paris Agreement, through its action on gender. The link is presented in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Link between the actions of the Housing Partnerships and the relevant Paris Agreement COP21 article	
Paris Agreement COP21 article	Contributing Housing Partnership Actions
Article 7, Section 5. Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.	Action 10: Recommendations on improvement of EU gender-poverty-energy nexus data

Annex 1.

Annex 1 provides details and links to the international commitments discussed in this document.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2015 the UN General Assembly formally accepted a new set of 17 measurable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)³⁴, ranging from ending world poverty to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls by 2030. Housing is mentioned in the section one of article 11. Therefore, in the work related to housing worldwide, article 11 and its section 1 are the relevant guide and goal to consider.

By extension, the work of the Housing Partnership that addresses defined themes related to housing in Europe and its cities, abides to the SDG 11. and 11.1 as follows:

SDG article 11: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'
*SDG section 11.1: 'By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums'*³⁵

While the Sustainable Development Goals limit their coverage of housing issues to above, the Housing and urban development issues are further developed in the New Urban Agenda.

New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals- Habitat III

The New Urban Agenda was adopted by the Member States of the United Nations in 2016. The Agenda is a new framework that lays out how cities should be planned and managed to best promote sustainable urbanization. As such, the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) reinvigorated the global commitment to sustainable urbanization.

According to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) 'the document should be seen as an extension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed by 193 Member States of the UN in September 2015. That Agenda's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) first recognized the importance of cities and towns, which will constitute up to 70 per cent of the world population by 2050³⁶.

The New Urban Agenda significantly expands the UN member states commitment to housing. Housing is addressed in 24 out of 175 articles (See Annex 2). Differently, from the previous Habitat commitments (See Habitat I and Habitat II), Habitat III New Urban Agenda has emphasised the importance of the implementation (Quito Implementation Plan) and international commitments to it, as a part of that strategy. These commitments are not a substitute for Governments' responsibilities and intergovernmentally agreed commitments; they are intended to strengthen implementation of

³⁴ These are to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight measurable goals which were signed in September 2000.

³⁵ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

³⁶ <https://unhabitat.org/new-urban-agenda-adopted-at-habitat-iii/>

NUA by involving those relevant stakeholders that can make a contribution to sustainable urban development³⁷.

Apart from focus on cities in terms of sustainable urbanisation, the New Urban Agenda, also makes suggestions in terms of governance of their operationalization and implementation. 'Local and sub-national governments anchor new urban governance on the ground and play a pivotal role in implementing the New Urban Agenda: strong and capable local governments are the key levers to ensure inclusive and sustainable urban development, with accountable urban governance systems and balanced multi-stakeholder involvement'³⁸ Therefore, the urban governance will need to undergo a deep transformation to achieve these global agendas, all of which converge in cities and territories. The EU Urban Agenda, attempt to develop multi stakeholder partnerships is one of the ways to advance these goals.

Paris Agreement COP21

Implementation of the Paris Agreement is essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and provides a roadmap for climate actions that will reduce emissions and build climate resilience³⁹.

The Paris Agreement unites all the world's nations in a single agreement on tackling climate change for the first time in history. The key focus of the agreement is cutting the greenhouse emissions. While the housing is not of specific focus of the Agreement, the link and importance comes from the fact that housing is responsible for significant amount of greenhouse emissions. Among other issues, limiting urban sprawl (and related transportation) and increasing energy efficiency in housing have been recognized as the ways to limit the greenhouse emissions in the housing sector (the relevant statements are noted in Annex 1).

Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action.

It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR)⁴⁰ The Framework (non-binding agreement) recognizes that the State has the primary role in reducing disaster risk. Similarly, to other commitments the Sendai Framework also highlights the need for multi-level governance, by stressing that the responsibility for disaster risk reduction should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. The framework, addresses specific aspects of the housing sector that relate to post disaster emergency housing preparedness and reconstruction. For instance, targets to strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including housing among other issues (see for example articles 31(g) and 31(j)⁴¹).

³⁷ <https://habitat3.org/qip-about>

³⁸ <http://www.lse.ac.uk/researchAndExpertise/Experts/profile.aspx?KeyValue=p.rode%40lse.ac.uk>

³⁹ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>

⁴⁰ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

⁴¹ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

Annex 2.

This annex provides the full text of all the Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda and the COP21

Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)

The New Urban Agenda lists 24 articles (out of 175) that relate to housing, additional articles relating to fiscal issues and energy efficiency are included. The articles (their relevant sections) are listed below:

Article 2. By 2050 the world urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the 21st century's most transformative trends. As the population, economic activities, social and cultural interactions, as well as environmental and humanitarian impacts, are increasingly concentrated in cities, this poses massive sustainability challenges in terms of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety, and natural resources, among others.

Article 13. We envisage cities and human settlements that:

(a) fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieve the full realization of the right to adequate housing, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air quality, and livelihoods;

Article 14: To achieve our vision, we resolve to adopt a New Urban Agenda guided by the following interlinked principles:

(a) Providing equal access to all to physical and social infrastructure and basic services as well as adequate affordable housing.

(b) Sustainable and inclusive urban economies, by leveraging the agglomeration benefits of well-planned urbanization, high productivity, competitiveness, and innovation; promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, ensuring decent job creation and equal access for all to economic and productive resources and opportunities; preventing land speculation; and promoting secure land tenure and managing urban shrinking where appropriate.

Article 15. We commit to work towards an urban paradigm shift for a New Urban Agenda that will:

(c) adopt sustainable, people-centered, age- and gender-responsive and integrated approaches to urban and territorial development by implementing policies, strategies, capacity development, and actions at all levels, based on fundamental drivers of change including:

iv. supporting effective, innovative, and sustainable financing frameworks and instruments, enabling strengthened municipal finance and local fiscal systems in order to create, sustain, and share the value generated by sustainable urban development in an inclusive manner.

Article 31. We commit ourselves to promoting national, subnational and local housing policies that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, that address all forms of discrimination and violence and prevent arbitrary forced evictions and that focus on the needs of the homeless, persons in vulnerable situations, low-income groups and persons with disabilities, while enabling the participation and engagement of communities and relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of these policies, including supporting the social production of habitat, according to national legislation and standards.

Article 32. We commit ourselves to promoting the development of integrated and age- and gender-responsive housing policies and approaches across all sectors, in particular the employment, education, health-care and social integration sectors, and at all levels of government — policies and approaches that incorporate the provision of adequate, affordable, accessible, resource-efficient, safe, resilient, well-connected and well-located housing, with special attention to the proximity factor and the strengthening of the spatial relationship with the rest of the urban fabric and the surrounding functional areas.

Article 33. We commit ourselves to stimulating the supply of a variety of adequate housing options that are safe, affordable and accessible for members of different income groups of society, taking into consideration the socioeconomic and cultural integration of marginalized communities, homeless persons and those in vulnerable situations and preventing segregation. We will take positive measures to improve the living conditions of homeless people, with a view to facilitating their full participation in society, and to prevent and eliminate homelessness, as well as to combat and eliminate its criminalization.

Article 35. We commit to promote, at the appropriate level of government, including sub-national and local government, increased security of tenure for all, recognizing the plurality of tenure types, and to develop fit-for-purpose, and age-, gender-, and environment-responsive solutions within the continuum of land and property rights, with particular attention to security of land tenure for women as key to their empowerment, including through effective administrative systems.

Article 44. We recognize that urban form, infrastructure, and building design are among the greatest drivers of cost and resource efficiencies, through the benefits of economy of scale and

agglomeration, and fostering energy efficiency, renewable energy, resilience, productivity, environmental protection, and sustainable growth in the urban economy.

Article 46. We commit to promote the role of affordable and sustainable housing and housing finance, including social habitat production, in economic development, and the contribution of the sector in stimulating productivity in other economic sectors, recognising that housing enhances capital formation, income, employment generation, and savings, and can contribute to driving sustainable and inclusive economic transformation at the national, sub-national and local levels.

Article 54. We commit to the generation and use of renewable and affordable energy and sustainable and efficient transport infrastructure and services, where possible, achieving the benefits of connectivity and reducing the financial, environmental, and public health costs of inefficient mobility, congestion, air pollution, urban heat island effect, and noise. We also commit to give particular attention to the energy and transport needs of all people, particularly the poor and those living in informal settlements. We also note that reductions in renewable energy costs give cities and human settlements an effective tool to lower energy supply costs.

Article 66. We commit to adopt a smart city approach, which makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies, as well as innovative transport technologies, thus providing options for inhabitants to make more environmentally friendly choices and boost sustainable economic growth and enabling cities to improve their service delivery.

Article 71. We commit to strengthening the sustainable management of resources — including land, water (oceans, seas, and freshwater), energy, materials, forests, and food, with particular attention to the environmentally sound management and minimization of all waste, hazardous chemicals, including air and short-lived climate pollutants, greenhouse gases, and noise — in a way that considers urban-rural linkages and functional supply and value chains vis-à-vis environmental impact and sustainability, and strives to transition to a circular economy, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

Article 75. We commit to encourage national, sub-national, and local governments, as appropriate, to develop sustainable, renewable, and affordable energy, energy-efficient buildings and construction modes, and to promote energy conservation and efficiency, which are essential to enable the reduction of greenhouse gas and black carbon emissions, ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and help to create new decent jobs, improve public health, and reduce the costs of energy supply.

Article 77. We commit ourselves to strengthening the resilience of cities and human settlements, including through the development of quality infrastructure and spatial planning, by adopting and implementing integrated, age- and gender-responsive policies and plans and ecosystem-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and by mainstreaming holistic and data-informed disaster risk reduction and management at all levels to reduce vulnerabilities and risk, especially in risk-prone areas of formal and informal settlements, including slums, and to enable households, communities, institutions and services to prepare for, respond to, adapt to and rapidly recover from the effects of hazards, including shocks or latent stresses. We will promote the development of infrastructure that is resilient and resource efficient

and will reduce the risks and impact of disasters, including the rehabilitation and upgrading of slums and informal settlements. We will also promote measures for strengthening and retrofitting all risky housing stock, including in slums and informal settlements, to make it resilient to disasters, in coordination with local authorities and stakeholders.

Article 88. We will ensure coherence between goals and measures of sectoral policies, inter alia, rural development, land use, food security and nutrition, management of natural resources, provision of public services, water and sanitation, health, environment, energy, housing and mobility policies, at different levels and scales of political administration, across administrative borders and considering the appropriate functional areas, in order to strengthen integrated approaches to urbanization and implement integrated urban and territorial planning strategies that factor them in.

Article 89. We will take measures to establish legal and policy frameworks, based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination, to better enable prevailing governments to effectively implement national urban policies, as appropriate, and to empower them as policy and decision-makers, ensuring appropriate fiscal, political, and administrative decentralization based on the principle of subsidiarity.

Article 99. We will support implementation of urban planning strategies, as appropriate, that facilitate a social mix through the provision of affordable housing options with access to quality basic services and public spaces for all, enhancing safety and security, favouring social and inter-generational interaction and the appreciation of diversity.

Article 105. We will develop and implement housing policies at all levels, incorporating participatory planning, and applying the principle of subsidiarity, as appropriate, in order to ensure coherence among national, sub-national, and local development strategies, land policies, and housing supply.

Article 106. We will promote housing policies based on the principles of social inclusion, economic effectiveness and environmental protection. We will support the effective use of public resources for affordable and sustainable housing, including land in central and consolidated areas of cities with adequate infrastructure and encourage mixed income development to promote social inclusion and cohesion.

Article 107. We will encourage developing policies, tools, mechanisms, and financing models that promote access to a wide range of affordable, sustainable housing options including rental and other tenure options, as well as cooperative solutions such as co-housing, community land trust, and other forms of collective tenure, that would address the evolving needs of persons and communities, in order to improve the supply of housing, especially for low-income groups and to prevent segregation and arbitrary forced evictions and displacements, to provide dignified and adequate re-allocation. This will include support to incremental housing and self-build schemes, with special attention to slums and informal settlements upgrading programmes.

Article 108. We will support the development of housing policies that foster local integrated housing approaches, addressing the strong links between education, employment, housing, and health, preventing exclusion and segregation.

Article 109. We will consider increased allocation of financial and human resources, as appropriate, for the upgrading and, to the extent possible, the prevention of slums and informal settlements in the allocation of financial and human resources with strategies that go beyond physical and environmental improvements, to ensure that slums and informal settlements are integrated into the social, economic, cultural, and political dimensions of cities. These strategies should include, as applicable, access to sustainable, adequate, safe, and affordable housing; basic and social services; and safe, inclusive, accessible, green, and quality public spaces; and they should promote security of tenure and its regularization, as well as measures for conflict prevention and mediation.

Article 111 Regulation in the housing sector, including building codes, planning regulation, combating speculation and displacement.

Article 111. We will also promote differentiated analysis of housing supply and demand based on high quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data at the national sub national and local levels, considering specific social, economic, environmental and cultural dimensions.

Article 112. Implementation of urban development programmes with housing and people's needs at the centre of the strategy.

Article 114. transit oriented development and mixed income housing.

Article 121. We will ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by promoting energy efficiency and sustainable renewable energy, and supporting sub-national and local efforts; to apply them in public buildings, infrastructure and facilities, as well as in taking advantage of their direct control, where applicable, of local infrastructure and codes, to foster uptake in end-use sectors, such as residential, commercial, and industrial buildings, industry, transport, waste, and sanitation. We also encourage the adoption of building performance codes and standards, renewable portfolio targets, energy efficiency labelling, retrofitting of existing buildings and public procurement policies on energy, among other modalities as appropriate, to achieve energy efficiency targets. We will also prioritize smart grid, district energy systems, and community energy plans to improve synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Article 137. We will promote best practices to capture and share the increase in land and property value generated as a result of urban development processes, infrastructure projects, and public investments. Measures could be put in place, as appropriate, to prevent its solely private capture as well as land and real estate speculations, such as gains-related fiscal policies. We will reinforce the link among fiscal systems, urban planning, as well as urban management tools, including land market regulations. We will work to ensure that efforts to generate land-based finance do not result in unsustainable land use and consumption.

Article 130. We recognize that sustainable urban development, guided by prevailing urban policies and strategies, as appropriate, can benefit from integrated financing frameworks that are supported by an enabling environment at all levels. We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that all financial means of implementation are firmly embedded into coherent policy frameworks and fiscal decentralization processes where available, and that adequate capacities are developed at all levels.

Article 140. We will support the development of appropriate and affordable housing finance products; and encourage the participation of a diverse range of multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, and development finance institutions; cooperation agencies; private sector lenders and investors, cooperatives, money lenders, and microfinance banks to invest in affordable and incremental housing in all its forms.

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(Introduction para 8)

Emphasizing the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty.

Article 2

1. This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

(b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and

(c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

Article 4

1. In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal set out in Article 2, Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

Article 10

1. Parties share a long-term vision on the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Parties, noting the importance of technology for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions under this Agreement and recognizing existing technology deployment and dissemination efforts, shall strengthen cooperative action on technology development and transfer.

Article 6

8. Parties recognize the importance of integrated, holistic and balanced non-market approaches being available to Parties to assist in the implementation of their nationally determined contributions, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in a coordinated and effective manner, including through, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building, as appropriate. These approaches shall aim to:

- (a) Promote mitigation and adaptation ambition;
- (b) Enhance public and private sector participation in the implementation of nationally determined contributions; and
- (c) Enable opportunities for coordination across instruments and relevant institutional arrangements.