

Contribution by the Federal Republic of Germany

11 June 2015

Questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing on Habitat III

1. What role will national and international human rights standards on the right to adequate housing play in informing your positions and proposals for Habitat III? Can you please provide concrete examples in this regard?

The German position towards Habitat III from an urban development perspective will be elaborated in a participatory process with relevant stakeholders paying special attention to the local level. This process has not yet been started so at the moment our statements can be only provisional. It is envisaged that the focus of the German position will be on the instruments of integrated urban development and multi-level governance.

2. One aspect for discussion in the context of Habitat III will likely be “social cohesion and housing”. What public policies or plans are being considered or have been put forward by national or subnational level governments related to “social cohesion” and the right to adequate housing?

With its "Social City" program, the Federal Government supports towns and cities to improve the living conditions in neighborhoods that are physically run-down, economically disadvantaged and socially deprived. In areas where problems overlap, physical regeneration is accompanied by measures from various policy areas, such as housing policy, economic policy, labor policy, integration policy, education policy and social policy, which are consolidated to form an integrated urban development policy at the local authority level.

3. In light of the fact that subnational and local governments play an essential role with respect to the implementation of the right of adequate housing, what plans and procedures does your Government intend to implement to ensure they are engaged in the lead up to Habitat III as well as with respect to the implementation of commitments coming out of Habitat III?

The state governments as well as the city associations and other relevant stakeholders are included in every step of the lead up of Habitat III. The first step was the preparation of the National Report on Habitat III (the report will be delivered shortly). Subnational and local governments were asked to contribute their opinions on all aspects of urban development. Their comments and amendments have been taken into account. We will organize a seminar with stakeholders for the preparation of a German position paper on the New Urban Agenda and this will also be a topic of our Federal Congress of National Urban Development Policy with 1000 participants in September 2015.

4. What interesting or unique housing policies, programs or good practices consistent with the human right to housing does your Government intend to highlight through the Habitat III process? Please provide examples both from local, subnational or national levels of government, and, if applicable, from non-government actors as well.

Reference is made to our answers to questions 1 and 3.

5. Please reflect on mechanisms used to monitor compliance with Habitat II (1996) at the national level that have proven effective and, if possible, provide examples. What kind of mechanisms would your Government envisage as part of the monitoring and implementation of Habitat III?

There are numerous mechanisms in place in Germany to monitor spatial development. The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development offers analysis of relevant spatial data/information as well as description and evaluation of spatial developments and trends on the housing- and property market. Regular urban development reports provide an extensive insight in latest trends and developments in urban policy in Germany. Regular consultations with the Länder and the city associations in the framework of the National Urban Development Policy are used to monitor ongoing activities and trends of urban development in Germany, also with regard to Habitat.