**MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING**

**QUESTIONANAIRE**

1. Housing is a main need to all human beings. All other sectors follow once human beings are housed in safe decent shelter. Housing is a right that should be secured to all equally.. as a human right , housing entitles security of tenure ..access to services (water – sewerage – cooing gas – electricity - ..) affordability.. ease of access.. safety.. social acceptance...etc.. As such local and international communities should work together to ensure such major standards to all citizens..

Housing is is affected and affects several other components;

Land and tenure: In Jordan registration of all land is very well accomplished. All transactions and/or transfers of land are very well organised and documented. It is basic criteria for securing tenure rights.

Services: In Jordan %96 of the households are connected to the public water network, %99 to electricity, %60 to sewerage networks.. However since water is a major shortage in many countries with Jordan on the extreme end – the international community should lay strategies to provide equally distribution of sources of water between countries..

All people have the right to live in affordable decent house that is within their traditional and social principles of a community.. this is a right that should be respected by all national and international policies and activities.

1. Jordan has always been affected by immigrants from neighbouring countries due to political unrest and conflicts. When it comes to housing and shelter, Refugees and immigrants have the right to live in decent safe shelters wherever they are; needs of the women.. Youth and the elderly should be addressed and taken into consideration by all policy makers. Recently Jordan was affected by a huge influx of refugees from Syria. Around 1.4 million refugees have settled in Jordan during the last three years, %20 of which are staying within the formal camps; %80 percentage sought refuge with the host communities. Jordan has compiled a Resilience plan with all the needs to cope with the situation. Shelter was one of the main components of the plan which introduced the projects the government of Jordan seeks the international community to participate in achieving. The plan in general cites all aspects of the human right to living in adequate standards..

On the national level, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) had formulated a national housing strategy earlier in 1989 which was one of the earliest countries to have a national strategy. The recommendations of the strategy stressed on the right of all citizens to access adequate affordable housing, the private sector have thus been called in to participate and partner with the government to enable the middle and lower income groups access affordable housing. After more than 20years, HUDC is currently reviewing the National Housing Strategy with cooperation of international experts.

Jordan has also produced a national Poverty strategy, aiming at tackling all living issues affecting and decreasing poverty levels in Jordan. Housing was discussed as a main attribute to decent living.

The Ministry of Social development has had programs to facilitate living conditions for the elderly. Several elderly public homes have been established, with the ministry monitoring and evaluating both the public and private centres and / or homes.

The Municipalities Law, which was first issued in 1955, gave the right to the citizens to elect their municipality boards reflecting Jordan's commitment to the right of the citizens to express their right to living conditions.

On the production side, HUDC is the sole government agency responsible for the housing sector policies and for production. Since establishment in 1965, HUDC produced more than 300 housing projects across the country, 40 illserviced sites were upgraded and 52 PPP agreements with private sector to produce housing to middle income groups. The ministry of Social development on the other hand, have been able to provide for housing to the very poor for free, but its production has been very meagre.

In 2008, His Majesty King Abdullah II have initiated a program; the Decent Housing Decent Living Royal initiative aiming at enabling citizens to access affordable decent housing.

1. Jordan in its preparation for Habitat III have revised it's national habitat committee, to include the relevant stake holders of the sector. The Habitat III committee is chaired by H E the Minister of Public Works and Housing, with the following members:

* The Housing and Urban Development Corporation; Director General
* Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality (the capital)
* The Aqaba special Economic Authority; chairperson
* Ministry of Interior Affairs – Local Development Directorate; Governor
* Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; Secretary General
* Ministry of Municipal Affairs; Secretary General
* Ministry of Environment; Secretary General
* Ministry of Water ; Secretary General
* Ministry of Finance ; Secretary General
* Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources; Secretary General
* Department of land and Survey: Director General
* Department of Statistics; Director General
* National Committee for the advancement of Women; Secretary General
* Higher Population Council; Secretary General
* Jordanian Engineers Association; President
* Jordanian Contractors Association; President
* Jordanian Housing Investors Association; President
* Jordan Banks Society: Director
* Public Security Department; deputy Director for Traffic
* Reporteur ; Housing and Urban Development Corporation

The committee reflects:

* Jordan's commitment to engage the main stakeholders of the sector in the policy making and future perspective.
* Engaging the relevant actors in the preparation of the national Report for Habitat III; the higher committee formed sub-committees from its members for each subtheme of the report, and was headed by one of the members .
* Including the main stakeholders and engaging them in the reporting of the sector , setting the challenges faced and the recommendation for Habitat III, introduced them to the sector and shared them the responsibility of the past and the future.
* On the other hand, relating to the previous participation of Jordan in the Habitat Conference, a delegation of the major actors is expected to participate in order to enrol in the events, challenges and commitments the conference will tackle.

1. Housing policies in Jordan were characterised by responding to the challenges of the social and economic changes that affected the housing need in general. The housing policies goal has always been to meet the demand for a adequate decent affordable housing to all groups of the society. The main issues Jordan has experienced and would like the international society to tackle more profoundly are:

* Direct subsidy policies to help lower income groups afford decent housing; government at certain stages would need to provide certain methodologies to enhance the production sectors to the least on the income ladder or for the poor in general..
* In Jordan, the government has several initiatives for the poor whereby certain households are given housing for free. On the otherhand, earlier some thirty decades away, the Jordanian government was subsidising it's production targeting mainly government employees. Such policies however have changed because of the inability of the government to afford the cost of the subsidy taking into account the modest resources Jordan has in general.
* Responding to the general goal of social and economic security of the citizens, governments need to provide for social programmes that will improve the living conditions in areas with lack of adequate services and housing facilities ; In Jordan, slum and illserviced areas across the country were surveyed and programs were executed to enhance the living conditions for the households.
* Policies that enables the main actors to provide decent housing affordable by all the citizens, responding to this would be the governments , the producers, the infrastructure providers, the land , the finance ,etc..

1. Jordan in preparation for Habitat II has adopted the Urban and Housing indicators program established by the UNHABITAT / global observatories program. Since then the set of indicators were developed to meet the overall housing situation in Jordan. The housing and Urban indicators are currently being periodically produced and revised.

On the other, The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (the government agency responsible for the housing sector) produces other reports on the evaluation of the sector; some of which are:

* Housing sector profile; to analyze the indicators and their role in the housing and urban sectors.
* Annual housing sector report; an annual evaluation of the sector and its response to the adopted housing and urban policies in general.

Monitoring and evaluation are valuable tools for policy makers.. global coordination should be a key player for international and national policies and strategies.