



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-3000

Role of HUD in the Habitat III National Preparatory Process

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Prepared by HUD's Office for International and Philanthropic Innovation

Overview of Habitat III

[Habitat III](#) is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development scheduled to take place in October 2016. The UN convened the Habitat I conference in 1976 in Vancouver, Canada, which sparked an international conversation on urban issues. Twenty years later, at the Habitat II conference in Istanbul, Turkey, world leaders adopted the Habitat Agenda as a global action plan to create adequate shelter for all. At Habitat III, participants and Member States will develop a "New Urban Agenda" that addresses 21st Century challenges and harnesses the tremendous potential of cities to promote sustainable development.

HUD's Role in Preparations

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is committed to facilitating a dynamic and inclusive Habitat III preparatory process that engages a diverse set of USG and civil society stakeholders and provides a platform for parallel activities and feedback. Functionally, the Department will focus on two elements of the process: convening the U.S. National Preparatory Committee and coordinating the production of the U.S. National Report.

The U.S. National Committee for Habitat III:

HUD, in coordination with the State Department and other federal agencies, announced the formation of a U.S. National Committee for Habitat III in September, 2014. The goals of the National Committee are as follows:

- To promote open and productive dialogue on key challenges facing U.S. cities and regions, and discuss opportunities to improve quality of life, sustainability, and resilience efforts;
- To raise public awareness and engage local communities on housing, planning, and community development issues in the United States and how they connect to global conversations;
- To uplift best practices and innovations emerging from rural, tribal, suburban, and urban communities across the United States.

The National Committee is chaired by HUD Secretary Julián Castro and includes representatives from the federal government, local authorities, academic institutions, philanthropy, civil society and industry leaders. The National Committee had its first meeting in December, 2014, when subcommittees were formed to address specific tasks including: contributing to the U.S. [National Report](#), connecting the U.S. to global conversations, and providing education and outreach to domestic stakeholders. A second meeting was held on March 2015.

Roles and Responsibilities of National Committee members include the following:

- Attending a series of high-level in-person planning meetings in Washington, DC (approximately four between December 2014 and the Habitat III convening in 2016);
- Serving as a member of at least one subcommittee which will convene via phone in between meetings;
- Serve as liaisons between National Committee work and constituencies of their organizations.

The National Committee structure will allow for a myriad of engagement opportunities for committee members as well as other partners.

The members of the U.S. Habitat III National Committees are:

- AARP Foundation
- American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- American Planning Association (APA)
- California Endowment
- Citi
- Emerald Cities Collaborative
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Federal Reserve Board
- Ford Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity International
- Housing Partnership Network (HPN)
- Huairou Commission
- International Cities / County Management Association (ICMA)
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)
- National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB)
- National Association of Counties (NACo)
- National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)
- National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- National Fair Housing Alliance
- National Housing Law Project
- National League of Cities (NLC)
- New York University, Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy
- Rockefeller Foundation
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- University of Chicago
- University of Pennsylvania, Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR)
- Urban Institute
- Urban Land Institute (ULI)
- White House Domestic Policy Council (DPC)
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars