

**DeclarACTION on Youth and Sustainable Urban Development
at the 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly on Sustainable Urban Future through
Inclusive and Effective Multilateralism: Achieving the Sustainable
Development Goals in Times of Global Crises**

**Presented to Madam Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif.
Nairobi, 9th June 2023**

We, the members from the interim UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board representing the voices of youth organizations from around the world through the Youth Caucus, gathered at the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in the City of Nairobi, Kenya, on June 8th 2023 through this DeclarAction declare our right to the city and express our intention to work with stakeholders at the Local, National and Global Level to strive for the meaningful inclusion of young people in the achievement of a sustainable urban future.

Furthermore, we emphasize the recognition of the active role of young people in the development of our cities and communities with the goal of leaving no one and no place behind in the achievement of Agenda 2030.

During the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, we the young people, convened, deliberated and have concluded the following:

1. We pledge to work towards accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030; therefore, we call upon UN–HABITAT to amplify actions towards digital literacy among young people and develop partnerships between youth, local governments, other United Nations agencies, to catalyze the meaningful participation of young people in policy development, city planning, and program development and implementation.
2. We believe that everyone deserves a safe and secure place to call home. We urge local, national, and regional governments to enforce legal frameworks that protect the housing, land, and property rights of young people and women.
3. To ensure that low-income and unemployed young people understand their rights to adequate housing, we call for the development of specific policies such as tax abatement.

4. Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of including young people with technical skills in the practical and organizational aspects of housing provision.
5. In addition to housing, we must address the pressing issue of climate change. We call upon UN member states to recognize the invaluable contributions of young people and youth-led organizations engaged in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives. We need your support to scale up their activities and provide the necessary resources.
6. Governments should increase investments in early warning systems to facilitate timely information distribution of climatic catastrophes.
7. Furthermore, we encourage the adoption and use of youth-led ICT innovations, with a focus on privacy rights and ethical data collection and management processes. It is essential to enhance the capacities of young people in data collection.

8. To strengthen urban crisis recovery, we call for the meaningful inclusion of young people in platforms and mechanisms for peace in metropolitan areas, especially in regard to the localization of the SDGs.
9. UN-Habitat must double its efforts to engage youth meaningfully in projects and initiatives on urban planning and development.
10. Smart cities play a significant role in our future. Governments should construct Information Resource Centers and ICT hubs to facilitate skill development and innovations among young people.
11. In conclusion, we, the youth, commit to mainstreaming our voices in all major stakeholder forums and structures within the UN-Habitat system. We aim to influence decision-making processes in these structures and work collaboratively towards that end.

We thank you on behalf of the UN-HABITAT Youth Advisory Board and the youth at the UN-Habitat 2 Assembly for engaging youth in the deliberations. We thank you for the

extensive UN-Habitat Executive Directors Report and look forward to seeing youth statement being reflected in the final statement of the UN-Habitat Assembly declaration.