

Habitat III: Cross-Cutting Expert Group Meeting

New York, 3-4 May 2016

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OHCHR Regional Office for South America

Executive Summary: OHCHR Regional Office for South America (RO) appreciates the invitation to participate in the Cross-Cutting Expert Group Meeting ahead of Habitat III on 3-4 May 2016, and takes the opportunity to share its comments on certain elements that the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Quito, Ecuador, 17-20 October 2016), commonly known as ‘Habitat III’ and its outcome document should consider in order to make a real impact in Latin America. The RO emphasizes the need for the outcome documents to be anchored in a human rights-based approach, and sensitive to existing and emerging urban challenges regarding the specific needs of marginalized persons and groups in the region.

For the above purpose, **this document puts forward a few main elements that should be considered in the negotiation and implementation of a ‘new urban agenda’¹**. In so doing, this paper: 1. Explores key elements for the region, with a focus on a human rights based approach and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 2. Focuses on the right to adequate housing, including relevant public services, as an entry point for implementing a new urban agenda in the region; 3. Approaches the issue of safer cities under the international human rights framework; and 4. Discusses climate change and disaster risk management in the cities from the Latin American perspective. The document includes an annex with tables on the legal recognition of the right to adequate housing in selected countries of reference in the region.

¹ As reflected in General Assembly resolution A/70/473, the Habitat III Conference on a ‘new urban agenda’ will allow governments to respond to urbanization through promoting a new model of urban opportunity that is able to integrate all facets of sustainable development to promote equity, welfare and shared prosperity. See: <https://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda>.

1. A Human Rights-Based Approach to a 'New Urban Agenda'

The Habitat III Conference takes place at a moment in which Latin America faces increasing inequalities and, in many countries, a weakened or stagnated economic growth. Legislation and policies regulating the urban space in the region have so far lacked a human rights perspective. Towards this background, it is important that the Habitat III agenda is anchored in the international human rights normative framework, that **key principles such as participation, accountability and transparency are present in its outcome document and that it guides their application** in the shaping of legislation or public policies especially in the context of urban regulation, planning and finances.

In many parts of the world², it has been observed that while sub-national administrations have an increased regulatory capacity in urban management, they fail to consider key principles stemming from a human rights-based approach, which often results in conflicting policy decisions between different levels of governance. Therefore, a **focus on coherence between national and sub-national governance** is essential, ensuring a human rights-based approach at all levels. This echoes recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, who has emphasized that “local or other sub-national governments should be cognizant of and accountable to the human rights obligations that go along with their growing responsibilities”.³

In order to be effective, the Habitat III outcome document needs to be sensitive to the **diversity** of people living in a given urban space. For Latin America, the situation of migrants and refugees, indigenous people, people of African descent, women and girls, LGBTI people, older persons, persons with disabilities, people living in poverty and those that are homeless require special attention. Accordingly, the Habitat III outcome document should recognize the **principles of non-discrimination, respect for diversity and inclusion**, paying special attention to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination, as a starting point in the design of public policies for urban spaces.

In this regard, it is important to link the Habitat III outcome document with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**⁴. With the principled objective of **realizing human rights for everyone everywhere, and ensuring that no one is left behind**, the 2030 Agenda is a key reference framework as it aims to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner. In this regard, while goal 11 on sustainable cities, its targets and indicators are of central importance, the 2030 Agenda

² Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Leilani Farha, A/HRC/28/62, 22 December 2014.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, A/HRC/28/62, resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015.

should be considered in its entirety. For Latin America, the goals on ending poverty (goal N°1), promoting gender equality (goal N°5) and alliances necessary for achieving the goals (goal N°17) have particular relevance, among others.

Taking goal 17 as a reference, from a regional perspective it would be important that the 'new urban agenda', alike the 2030 Agenda, **incorporates the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights**. In view of the important role and influence of public-private partnerships, **the responsibility of both governments and business enterprises to respect and protect human rights throughout supply chains should be emphasized in this context**. This recognition is of particular relevance in the field of public services, where the privatization of services may entail the bypassing of human rights standards, and where effective regulation and corporate due diligence gain particular importance. Attention should also be paid to lending institutions, due to their impact in the housing sector.

Finally, a human rights-based approach to a new urban agenda' should be **sustained in reliable statistics and examined through adequate indicators**. The definition of indicators should be sensitive to human rights and aligned with the indicator's framework of the 2030 Agenda, with the aim of supporting the prioritization of measures in accordance with people's needs and in the assessment of the benefits of urban policies for all. Statistical tools should also include a particular focus on marginalized and discriminated groups, ensuring the generation and disaggregation of data based on the principles of participation, transparency and accountability, among others, as suggested by the OHCHR Guidance Note on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data⁵, thus going beyond a purely economic revision of policy effectiveness.

2. The right to adequate housing as an entry point

2.1 Synoptic Review: While the right to adequate housing is recognized in most Latin American constitutions⁶, it has fairly low priority in public policy throughout the region. The increase of people living in slums or in the streets is, to a large extent, a result of this lack of priority and resource allocation. Observations from the region correlate with the findings of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, who argues that this should be reverted in the 'new urban agenda', and the right to adequate housing should be placed at the centre of its outcome document⁷.

⁵ OHCHR Guidance Note on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data: Leaving no-one behind in the 2030 Development Agenda. A Guidance Note to Data Collection and Disaggregation, updated on 16 February 2016. See:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>.

⁶ See table on 'Constitutional recognition and justiciability' in Annex 1.

⁷ Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Leilani Farha, A/70/270, 4 August 2015.

In particular, the ‘new urban agenda’ should consider persons and groups who frequently encounter barriers in enjoying their right to adequate housing such as indigenous people, migrants, persons with disabilities, LGBTI people and women, in particular single mothers and other female heads of household.

2.2 Regulatory Framework: Most Latin American constitutions make to the right to adequate housing. In the constitutions of Ecuador and Bolivia, the right to a habitat is also incorporated. In certain countries there is specific reference to the need of special protection of certain groups.

Nevertheless, countries in the region still **lack specific legislation to regulate the right to adequate housing**, leading to the design of public policy that only focuses on temporary measures, which tends to substitute longer term and more coherent planning and execution of policies, limiting their impact.

In terms of **justiciability** of the right, while constitutional recognition has allowed for appeals on the grounds of unconstitutionality, high costs and lengthy judicial processes have created barriers for effective access to justice. Consequently, information related to timely and due legal processes could be used as an indicator under the ‘new urban agenda’⁸.

2.3 Other relevant aspects of the right:

- **Acquisitive prescription:** In the 11 countries that have been reviewed in the preparation of this document, the principle of acquisitive prescription, is enshrined in regulatory frameworks, and it requires uninterrupted occupation.
- **Forced evictions:** The region has witnessed a worrisome failure to meet international human rights standards related to evictions. Therefore, it would be important that the ‘new urban agenda’ recognizes forced evictions as gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, including the right to adequate housing, and makes reference to international standards and guidelines on this matter, detecting potential vulnerabilities and discrimination.

2.4 Internal displacement due to market influence: Latin American cities are being subject to endemic segregation because of a misconception of housing as a market product. People and traditionally inhabiting specific urban territories are being displaced under arguments such as redefining a space as cultural heritage, a use territories for sports events such as the Olympic Games of Rio de Janeiro in 2016, or simply because investors request a determined space for their use, among other reasons. This generates displacement on the one hand, and a rising value of the land on the other hand, where traditional inhabitants are no longer able to afford the increasing

⁸ The OHCHR publication on human rights indicators provides guidance for developing indicators that measure progress in human rights, including in the areas of access to justice and adequate housing. See: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Human_rights_indicators_en.pdf.

rents. **As a result, entire communities have needed to move elsewhere, creating a vicious circle of movement as a result of market interests and putting the most marginalized at further risk.**

The lack of a human rights perspective in urban policies and planning has been identified as one of the root causes of this situation. While this is visible at all levels of governance, decentralization processes bring along a special focus on local governments as human rights duty bearers. At the local level, **human rights defenders are key actors to protect and involve, and the 'new urban agenda' should recognize them as important references.** Local governments should take their views into account when evaluating planning measures and authorizing investments.

2.5 Informal Settlements: The 'new urban agenda' should consider that **internal displacement and the demographic explosion of cities have supported the proliferation of informal settlements and consequent human rights violations.** In Latin America, alike other parts of the world, these settlements are among the most affected by disasters and epidemics, due of lack of infrastructure and access to public services. In addition, in the region there is direct correlation between informal settlement and informal economic activity, as the lack of a home address affects a chain of social benefits and the access to employment and education.

2.5 Public Services: There is a special concern in Latin America related to public services, especially in the context of informal settlements and segregation in the cities. **The main challenges are related to access to water, sanitation and energy on the one hand, and public transport and mobility on the other hand.** The region is characterized by a lack of effectiveness, bad quality, and increased prices of goods and services, alongside increasing privatization.

In the region, **the way in which mega-cities are built is generating a chaotic pattern of a person's mobility.** Wealthy and middle class population groups increasingly use cars, creating stress in the traffic and raising the time spent in movement⁹. People living in poverty and those inhabiting rural areas outside of cities depend, on the other hand, on public transport to access education and work, due to the concentration of these and other goods and services in the cities¹⁰. However, **when existing, public transport remains inaccessible, especially for persons with disabilities, and expensive, slow and unsafe**¹¹.

The challenges related to mobility deteriorate the quality of life of citizens and reproduce cycles of inequality, thus generating a need for **the 'new urban agenda' to provide guidance on the organization of useful and accessible public transport with a view to contributing to the development of more inclusive cities.**

⁹ See http://www.caf.com/media/4203/desarrollourbano_y_movilidad_americalatina.pdf pg. 15

¹⁰ <http://www.bancomundial.org/es/news/feature/2014/09/16/transporte-publico-herramienta-para-reducir-la-pobreza-en-latinoamerica>

¹¹ For a thorough study of the public transport in Latin America, see:

http://www.caf.com/media/4203/desarrollourbano_y_movilidad_americalatina.pdf

3. City and Security

As is known, States have the obligation to guarantee security and public order in compliance with human rights standards, with special focus on marginalized groups. This closely relates to the use of public spaces, free mobility within a given territory and urban governance. From a human rights-based approach, public security should be conceived as a cohesive policy, aiming at eradicating any type of discrimination or stigmatization.¹² Although it might seem that this subject has been covered extensively within the region, there are areas that deserve special attention and which must yet be addressed.

UNDP¹³ has identified **six main overlapping threats in the region that that negatively impact on security**: street crime; violence and crime committed by and against the youth; gender-based violence; corruption (the misappropriation of public property, whose provision is the responsibility of the state); violence committed by state actors, and organized crime. Although organized crime – in particular drug trafficking— is often used to explain insecurity, research has shown that the regional, national and local dynamics are much more diverse. For instance land grabbing (of both urban and rural areas), armed conflicts and gender-based violence constitute important factors for insecurity.

The 2013-2014 UNDP Human Development Report entitled "Citizen Security with a Human Face: evidence and proposals for Latin America"¹⁴ argues that **despite the economic growth and social improvements that Latin-American has experienced in the last decade, the region remains the most unequal and most insecure in the world**. Besides, the increasing perception of urban insecurity and the rampant increase of organized crime put governments at a crossroads where they need to tackle the problem of reducing criminality in rapid and effective ways. This also brings along measures that contravene international human rights law, as policies are aiming at '*cleaning the cities*' and do not address criminality from an integral approach which respect human rights. Moreover, the **fight against organized crime** has, together with **terrorism prevention**, become the most typical examples of 'state of exemption' where **international human rights standards are put aside, in order to pursue a greater and 'general interest' objective**. This is also very much impacting urban governance and should be included as a key issue in the 'new urban agenda'.

¹² UN human rights treaty bodies have addressed the issues of policies relating to the inclusive use of the space as vectors for struggle against stigmatisation for particular groups. See, for instance, concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to Guatemala (CERD/C/GTM/CO/12-13).

¹³ UNDP, Human Development Report "Citizen Security with a Human Face: evidence and proposals for Latin America" 2013-2014.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

Bridging the gap between the formulation of public policies, on the one hand, and the preparation of well-founded analyses and recommendations from specialists, on the other could become among the key entry points for the 'new urban agenda' in tackling insecurity.

3.1 Security measures that violate human rights: A frequent approach to security in Latin American cities has been implemented through punitive State action and repressive measures. In this context, **Latin American countries have begun to take a number of steps towards the protection of citizens, which are notoriously far from international human rights standards** and, in turn, they have rendered invisible the discriminatory repressive responses towards certain groups. Measures range from preventive identity control, extended use of preventive detention, lowering the age of criminal responsibility, and countering terrorism measures that broaden the definition of public-order crime. In addition, competencies of local administrations have enabled the use of private security in public spaces, without respecting the rights of those affected and affecting directly their right to privacy.

In this regard, the 'new urban agenda' should set the base for a balanced public security and respect of human rights.

3.2 The use of public space: Latin American cities do not always provide for an enabling setting for realizing people's civil, cultural, economic, politic and social rights. Besides the use of urban spaces for recreation and mobility, cities are the layout where social protest takes place. **Latin America has a long tradition of repressive law enforcement, where social protests are conceived as a threat to the public security.** It is vital that the Habitat III outcome document includes this as a controversial practice that should move towards a city management that can envision the public space as the platform for protecting the rights to life, to dignity and to physical integrity as essential rights into citizen security, which, as a public good, is a responsibility of the state.¹⁵

3.3 Women and Sexual Diversity: Latin American cities have become especially dangerous for women, especially for teenagers and young women. For instance, harassment in public space is uncommonly criminalized, and thus not sanctioned. Public transport constitutes a special concern for women¹⁶. The increased involvement of women in various aspects of live, although still unequal, makes them depend on public transport. **As a consequence, violence, harassment and discrimination in public transportation the most common day-to-day experience of lack of safety for many Latin American women.** As the phenomenon has not been recognized with all its implications, there is a lack of policies that would assure their safe and equal mobility¹⁷. **Latin**

¹⁵ UNDP, Human Development Report "Citizen Security with a Human Face: evidence and proposals for Latin America" 2013-2014.

¹⁶ Information collected in Bogotá, Mexico City, Lima and Santiago, says that at least six from 10 women, and in extreme cases 9 from 10, had suffered harassment in public space, especially in public transport.

¹⁷ For a thorough analysis, see:

http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/38862/S1500626_es.pdf;jsessionid=8DEDBCA2686105A22153EB10B07F9056?sequence=1

American cities have also become increasingly dangerous for LGBTI people. It is frequent to face violence and discrimination in public spaces based on sexual orientation or gender identity, which is also reflected in high rates of hate crimes. Human rights defenders also suffer this kind of violence. **The ‘new urban agenda’ should propose solutions for the gender-dimension of safe cities.**

4. Climate change and disaster risk management in the cities

The topic of climate change and disaster risk management has become especially relevant in Latin America due to its geographical and social conditions. **It is important that the urban agenda includes responses to climate change and natural disasters that provoke crisis applying the human rights perspective.** The outcome document should point out that the manner in which disasters are managed may create conditions that lead to human rights violations, especially for groups of particular concern.

It is worth mentioning **that in Latin America, the immediate response and actions after the disasters are organized with a military logic, where the suspension of the rule of law is seen as something ‘necessary’, and which may lead to further human rights violations.**

In this context, emergency housing and shelters as provisional housing are relevant, nevertheless, the guidelines and protocols in place are not always complying with human rights. Shelters are designed for generic people and generic families, with little consideration to age, gender, sexual orientation or other factors. It is, for instance, infrequent to find shelters accessible for persons with disabilities. **The ‘new urban agenda’ should address the need for protocols that promote equal participation of all community members in all phases of planning and response, tackle discrimination and build resilience.**

4.1 Climate Change: It has been observed that the communities demonstrating the highest level of vulnerability to climate change correlate with those with higher rates of poverty and low levels of social participation¹⁸. The ‘new urban agenda’ should recall that applying a human rights-based approach to dealing with climate change situation is useful as it aims to empower the most vulnerable and promote their participation. **In the context of climate change, the agenda should also recall that territories are neither homogenous nor static, and that urban spaces must adapt and respond to new challenges brought about by climate change such as an increase in environmental migrants.**

4.2 Natural Disasters: The vulnerability to risks related to natural disaster is of particular relevance in Latin America¹⁹. **In order to better respond to earthquakes, tsunamis and fires, among others,**

18 <http://www.latercera.com/noticia/tendencias/2015/05/659-631158-9-petorca-y-la-ligua-las-comunas-con-mayor-riesgo-de-sufrir-desastres-por-el.shtml>

¹⁹ It has been argued that Latin America has nine of the 20 countries that spent more money as a result of extreme weather conditions, with an estimated cost of 50,000 million dollars from 2001 to 2010.

urban planning must include the human rights approach throughout the cycle of planning and response.

The articulation of urban governance from the perspective of a State's commitments on human rights is needed to **change recurring patterns such as the construction of housing in unsafe places** (beyond informal settlements), where the role of the 'new urban agenda' could be in emphasizing the need for transparent investment processes, building permits and periodic accountability and thus combatting related corruption.

Another problem currently being observed as a natural disaster in the region is the **alarming levels of air pollution**. While there have been difficulties in analyzing this problem in detail, due to most cities not having measurement systems in accordance with agreed indicators, studies support the conclusion that the problem is severe in Latin America, with concentrations of pollution well above the limits set by the World Health Organization²⁰. The 'new urban agenda' could play an important role in highlighting air pollution as a challenge in the urban space, and suggest solutions and indicators from a human rights-based approach.

4.3 Disasters of human responsibility: The region has lately witnessed a series of disasters whose primary causes are related to human behavior (State or private sector), such as disasters caused by the displacement of mine tailings (collapse in Mariana, Brazil) and the outbreak of socio-environmental conflicts. In addition, the devastating results of earthquakes can be seen as a lack of proper constructing regulation. In response to situations of this kind, **the 'new urban agenda' should recognize the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, emphasizing the joint responsibility of States and business enterprises to guarantee a respect and protection of human rights**. Human rights defenders should be involved in the design of responses, and the right to social protest safeguarded at all times.

20 For a thorough analysis, see:

http://www.caf.com/media/4203/desarrollourbano_y_movilidad_americalatina.pdf

ANNEX ON THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING²¹

1. Constitutional recognition and justiciability

Country	Constitutional Provision	Constitutional Writ
Argentina	Article 75.22: [...] Treaties and concordats have higher standing than laws.	Writ of Amparo
Bolivia	Article 19: I. Every person has the right to an adequate habitat and home that dignifies family and community life. II. The State, at all levels of the government, is responsible for promoting the development of housing for social benefit, using adequate financing systems, based on principles of solidarity and equity. These plans shall be directed preferentially to families with scarce resources, to disadvantaged groups and to rural areas.	Writ of Amparo
Brazil	Article 6: Education, health, nutrition, labor, housing, leisure, security, social security, protection of motherhood and childhood and assistance to the destitute, are social rights, in accordance with this Constitution.	Nonexistent
Chile	Nonexistent, but article 5.2 says that “[...] [i]t is the duty of the State’s organs to respect and promote [...] rights, guaranteed [...] by international treaties which have been ratified by Chile and that are in force.”	Nonexistent
Colombia	Article 51: All Colombian citizens are entitled to live in dignity. The State shall determine the conditions necessary to give effect to this right and shall promote plans for public housing, appropriate systems of long-term financing, and community plans for the execution of these housing programs.	Writ of amparo (Acción de tutela) and Class action (Acción Popular)
Ecuador	Article 39: Persons have the right to a safe and healthy habitat and adequate and decent housing, regardless of their social and economic status.	Writ of amparo (Garantía Jurisdiccional)
Mexico	Article 4: Any family has the right to enjoy a decent and respectable house. The law will set the instruments and supports necessary to achieve such objective.	Writ of Amparo
Paraguay	Article 100. Of the right to housing: All the inhabitants of the Republic have the right to a dignifying housing. The State will establish the conditions to make this right effective, and shall promote plans of housing of social interest, especially those destined to families of scarce resources, through systems of adequate financing.	Writ of Amparo
Peru	Nonexistent	Non applicable
Uruguay	Article 45: Every inhabitant of the country has the right to a decent home. The law shall seek to ensure hygienic and economical housing, by facilitating the purpose thereof and stimulating the investment of private capital to this end.	Writ of amparo
Venezuela	Article 82: Every person has the right to adequate, safe and comfortable, hygienic housing, with appropriate essential basic services, including a habitat such as to humanize family, neighborhood and community relations. The progressive meeting of this requirement is the shared responsibility of citizens and the State in all areas. The State shall give priority to families, and shall guarantee them, especially those with meager resources, the possibility of access to social policies and credit for the construction, purchase or enlargement of dwellings.	Writ of amparo

²¹ Some of the information considered in this tables it has been taking from “Derecho a una vivienda digna en Latinoamérica” by different authors, organized by the NGO Techo, available in: <http://www.trust.org/contentAsset/raw-data/d54c4446-8a0c-4000-b30e-3672a1f52dd0/file>

2. Legal Recognition beyond the Constitution

Country	Legal Provision
Argentina	The legal system lacks a specific ordinary law that regulates this matter.
Bolivia	The legal system lacks a specific ordinary law that regulates this matter.
Brasil	The legal system lacks a specific ordinary law that regulates this matter.
Chile	The legal system lacks a specific ordinary law that regulates this matter.
Colombia	The legal system lacks a specific ordinary law that regulates this matter.
Ecuador	The legal system lacks a specific ordinary law that regulates this matter.
México	It is regulated by the Federal Law of Housing (Ley Federal de Vivienda) whose article 1 says that it establishes and regulates the national policy, programs, instruments and backing so that every family can enjoy of a decent and respectable house.
Paraguay	The legal system lacks a specific ordinary law that regulates this matter.
Perú	The legal system lacks a specific ordinary law that regulates this matter, but there are different regulatory frameworks, in order to promote decent housing.
Uruguay	The legal system lacks a specific ordinary law that regulates this matter.
Venezuela	The Law on Housing Services and Habitat (Ley del Régimen Prestacional de Vivienda y Hábitat) from 2008 could be seen as an intent of regulating the constitutional right.

3. Administrative Structure

Country	Authority
Argentina	Undersecretary of Urban Development and Housing, dependent from the Secretary of Public Work and Federal Planning. It coordinates with the other provinces, which have their own regulation.
Bolivia	Nationally, the authority responsible for implementing the provisions on access to decent housing is the Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Therefore each region and local administration has a special unit.
Brazil	The National System of Housing with Social Interest (Sistema Nacional de Vivienda de Interés Social) has to lead the work of decent housing as a right and vehicle for social inclusion. The principal department is the Ministry of the Cities. At the regional level, the cities have to create Master Plans (foreseen in the Statute of the City of Brazil).
Chile	The principal authority is the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. At the regional level, exists Regional Secretaries of Housing and Urban Planning. Also, there are Services of Housing and Urban Planning and they have to supervise the regulation in construction and urban planning.
Colombia	Ministry of Housing, City and Territory. The different regions have created instruments in the topic of housing.
Ecuador	Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. The different districts have created instruments in the topic of housing.
México	National Commission of Housing, under the Secretary of territorial agricultural development and urban. At the different federal States it depends on each organization.
Paraguay	National Secretary of Housing and Hábitat. The urban planning depends on the local governments.
Peru	Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation. The local and regional Governments have the faculty of enact ordinances related to housing.
Uruguay	Ministry of Housing, Territorial System and Environment (Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente ("MVOTMA")) and It has a National Direction for Housing. The local units have the faculty of enact ordinances related to housing
Venezuela	Ministry from the Popular Power for Housing and Habitat (Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Vivienda y Hábitat (MINVIH)) is the main body, but there are other public institutions related.