

**Symposium on:**  
**Healthy economical sustainable housing in small and medium-sized towns**  
**Under the auspices of the Governor of the Northern State,**  
**City of Dongola, Northern State, the Republic of Sudan**  
**During the period form 10 to 12 March, 2010**

**I. Introduction:**

Providing healthy housing is one of the "Millennium Development Goals", and therefore the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) has worked on supporting the activities of the governments to promote the provision of housing for all, and providing technical and managerial expertise to assess the opportunities and barriers in the field of human settlements development.

The main objectives of the municipal departments are to provide a range of basic services and facilities that ensure a stable, civic life, foremost among which is providing the adequate housing. This service begins with the distribution of land, where tenure is the cornerstone of any urban housing project. There is no doubt that the official recognition on the part of the local authorities of the right of the poor in the urban neighborhoods to obtain suitable and healthy housing has positive connotations and a strong incentive to stimulate the process of social integration, and support investment in the construction of housing for the poor in the urban areas.

The provision of sustainable housing is the central theme of poverty alleviation and fighting, as it contributes to creating a healthy environment that is suitable for raising children, improving the performance of the adults' activities, reducing the incidence of diseases, creating an enabling environment for innovation and creativity, something which leads to the stability of the population, especially in cities. We can safely say that sustainable development cannot be achieved without providing sustainable healthy housing.

A lot of areas have witnessed rapid population and social changes because of the transition from nomadic and rural traditional lifestyles to urban life, especially after the rate of urban population increased to exceed 60% of the total population in any country as an inevitable result of the natural increase in population and migration to the cities. Therefore, the need has arisen for housing to accommodate the growing numbers of people in the cities, resulting in the establishment of slums and the building of squatter settlements where there the healthy and environmental requirements are not fulfilled.

There is no doubt that the issue of providing housing for the poor and low income families is particularly important, because they are in much more need for healthy economical housing. It is an issue that requires much efforts and search for appropriate methods to create low-cost housing to provide economical and healthy housing for these groups.

The progress that can be made to achieve the economical healthy housing can be monitored through some indicators such as the percentage of population with access to a good public healthy environment, and the percentage of people who can acquire housing, and the economical housing in accordance with the income rates.

The seminar will discuss these topics and its participants will discuss the latest developments and offer their successful experiences.

**II. Importance of the topic:**

The importance of the theme of the symposium stems from the importance and the need to provide proper housing for the individual and the family alike, as most activities of human life depends on the housing. Hence, the nations and governments have been concerned with the issue of providing suitable housing, developing housing strategies, projects and programs, and establishing real estate development and credit banks and funds, in order to enable people to build houses that meet the requirements of public health and the environment.

### **III. Objectives of the Symposium:**

This seminar aims to introduce the economical housing and the healthy sustainable housing, and identify the specifications and requirements of each of type. It also aims to find practical solutions that suit the economic, social and environmental conditions, devise methods for implementation and control cost. It also will discuss how to find finance for the economical healthy housing and will review some of the successful experiences and practices in this field.

### **IV. Themes and topics of the Symposium:**

1. Low Cost Housing:
  - Definition of affordable housing and its importance.
  - How to reduce the cost of housing through planning and design process and supervision of implementation.
  - Identify methods of construction and selection of environmentally friendly and economically suitable (local and imported) building materials.
  - Review the design and implementation phases, following the value engineering and construction management techniques and supervision to control the time.
2. Healthy Housing:
  - Definition of healthy housing.
  - To provide appropriate housing environment in terms of natural ventilation and lighting, and the availability of open spaces and green areas that meet the environmental requirements.
  - Provide the minimum essential services, including water, electricity, sanitation and fuel used in cooking.
  - Economic and social factors of the family and their role in determining the quality of the required housing.
  - Community services and methods of their delivery.
3. Financing Low-cost healthy sustainable housing:
  - The role of the State, municipalities and localities in providing low-cost, healthy, sustainable housing.
  - Partnership between the private and public sectors in the provision of low-cost, healthy, sustainable housing.
  - The involvement of civil society and stakeholders in the provision of low-cost, healthy, sustainable housing.
  - The role played by the State and national housing funds in providing housing.
4. The role of housing legislation in achieving low-cost, healthy, sustainable housing.
  - Policies, legislation and laws and the regulations of ownership.
  - Enactment of the necessary codes and their application to access the required housing.

5. Modern methods and techniques of building the low cost housing.
6. Planning the residential neighbouring and its role in achieving healthy housing.
7. National, regional and global successful experiences of low-cost, healthy, sustainable housing.

**V. Field visits:**

The program includes field visits to housing projects in the Northern State, including:

- Housing projects, including: Manasir, Al-Moltaqa, Amri.
- Saleem Project.
- Marwa Dam in Marwa Locality.
- Kerma Civilization Museum in Albrgig Locality.

**VI. The exhibition accompanying the symposium:**

An exhibition accompanying the symposium will be held to show experiences in construction and design of housing for various categories.

**VII. Beneficiaries of the symposium:**

Specialists and those of are interested in issues of housing, including engineers, administrators and officials of urban planning and land as well as those working in the field of real estate in the private sector, in addition to researchers from universities and research institutes.

**VIII. Symposium implementation method:**

- Keynote speakers.
- Lectures and work papers.
- Panel discussion with the participation of specialists, officials and those who are concerned housing issues.

**IX: Language:**

Arabic will be the basic language of the symposium program and translation of research and papers presented in the symposium will be available also in English.

**X. Venue and Date**

The symposium will be held in the Engineers Hall in the city of Dongola, during the period from 10 to 12 March 2010 .

**XI: Organizers**

- Ministry of Physical Planning, Housing and Public Utilities, Northern State / Republic of the Sudan .
- Arab Towns Organization represented by the Arab Urban Development Institute .

**XII. Registration**

- Registration in the symposium depends on presenting research or a work paper or by personal participation, through filling the attached registration form.

**XIII: Travel, accommodation and visas :**

- Travel and accommodation costs will be borne by the participant or the organization he represents

- Participants, whose presence requires them to get a visa, should coordinate and communicate early with the Coordinator of the Symposium in Dongola and provide him with a copy of their passports is to obtain the visa .

#### **XIV: Important Dates:**

1. Declaration of the symposium to provide research and work papers, Thursday, September 3, 2009 .
2. The full texts and one page abstract of each research shall be submitted for arbitration by Sunday, November 15, 2009 .
3. Notification of acceptance of research (and amendments, if any) shall be provided by Tuesday, December 15, 2009 .
4. Research shall be submitted, after the inclusion of the amendments, if any, by Thursday, January 7, 2010 .
5. Notification of acceptance of research as modified shall be provided by Thursday, January 28, 2010 ..
6. A register of the symposium research and working papers shall be prepared by Thursday, February 18, 2010 .
7. The symposium will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010.

#### **XV: Communications:**

- All correspondence shall be sent to the following address:  
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