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Tampa Declaration

"HPUI is willing and ready to play a critical role in the development of the new urban agenda for the 21st century"

We, the participants of the Global Meeting 2013 of the Habitat Partner University Initiative, from 40 universities and 23 countries, gathered at the Patel College of Global Sustainability, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA, from 10 to 12 May 2013;

Emphasizing our commitment to the promotion of sustainable urbanization and to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals and to Habitat III agenda;

Recalling the achievements from the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements (Habitat Conferences), held in Vancouver in 1976 (Habitat I) and in Istanbul in 1996 (Habitat II), in promoting socially and environmentally sustainable urban development with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all;

Noting the irreversibility of urbanization and its positive impact in advancing human development, equity, and poverty reduction, and the importance of slum upgrading and prevention in reducing the physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerability of urban dwellers not only to existing pressures but to the anticipated challenges of climate change, and strengthening governance and existing social capital in their communities;

Underlining the need to generate a new urban agenda for the 21st century - effectively harnessing the power and forces behind urbanization by bringing together diverse actors such as governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector, grassroots movements, NGO's, academic institutions and all other relevant stakeholders;

Recognizing that the proposed Habitat III conference scheduled for 2016 will mark a critical moment to adopt and implement the new urban agenda for the 21st century;

Recognizing further that the aim of the Habitat Partner University Initiative is to harness the strengths of universities, to address the current challenges of urbanization worldwide and to present a prospective vision for a new urban agenda for the 21st century.

Commit ourselves to ensuring that Habitat Partner University Initiative members will:

Work on strengthening the human, technical and institutional capacity of the Habitat Agenda partners, governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector, grassroots movements, NGO's, academic institutions and all other relevant stakeholders, to carry out the enormous tasks involved in implementing the new urban agenda for the 21st century;

- Actively participate in Habitat III discussions to be held within the context of the World Urban Forum and World Urban Campaign;
- Actively participate in activities and meetings on Habitat III, organized by Habitat Agenda partners, providing expertise, knowledge and research capability to enhance the discussions and outcomes;
- With the support of UN-Habitat, work to become members of the National Habitat Committees of our countries, in order to provide intellectual inputs and technical assistance for the preparation of national reports;
- Actively participate and provide inputs to regional and PrepCom meetings;
- Contribute to their countries' inputs to the Post-2015 Agenda and SDGs processes so as to ensure that sustainable urbanization is included in those inputs.

Recommend to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in his capacity as the Secretary-General of Habitat III, to include representation of the Habitat Partner University Initiative on the UN Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda and in the preparatory committees of Habitat III and to facilitate participation of universities at Habitat III.

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Ahmed Shalaby
Poh Ruel
Sanku
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