

**2020 Human Settlements Indaba**  
**Declaration on**  
**Strengthening Strategic partnerships to transform human settlements for**  
**spatial justice and social cohesion**

We, the participants of the 2020 Human Settlements Indaba from

- ✓ government sectors responsible for sustainable human settlements development in all three spheres,
- ✓ private sector financial institutions, developers, construction companies, mining companies, small, medium and micro enterprises and cooperatives;
- ✓ civil society, community-based organisations, women, youth, people with disabilities and military veterans;
- ✓ professional bodies;
- ✓ graduates, academia, research institutions and development agencies

*Having met on 6 March 2020 in Ekurhuleni to deliberate on our priority goals and our agreed vision for collaboration and partnership for transformed human settlements that promote social cohesion and spatial justice;*

*Having reflected on 25 years of human settlements delivery through partnerships and social contracts, which yielded 4.8 million housing opportunities, including over 3.2 million subsidised housing units, 1.1 million serviced sites, and 100 000 social rental and community residential units, as well as 14 000 finance-linked subsidies;*

*Further reflecting on the urgent need to make progress for the realisation of more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and a better life for all, including 2.3 million households still in need of decent housing, of which the vast majority (2.2 million) live in informal settlements and backyard dwellings;*

*Recognising the crucial role of sustainable human settlements development in achieving South Africa's vision as outlined in the National Development Plan and*

addressing the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment in the face of rapid urbanisation and climate crisis;

*Reaffirming* our commitment to spatial transformation and adequate housing in improved quality living environments articulated in the Comprehensive Plan for the Creation of Sustainable Human Settlements, the Integrated Urban Development Framework, the National Development Plan, as well as global commitments such as the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, and the Pretoria Declaration on Informal Settlements;

*Confirming* spatial transformation as a force for economic, social and environmental justice, redress, and social cohesion, through the creation of inclusive spaces with access to services and opportunities for all;

*Further confirming* the importance of partnerships within government, between the public and private sectors, and with society as a whole for the achievement of our shared vision and the goals in the 2019-2024 Medium Term Strategic Framework that will support spatial transformation, adequate housing and improved quality of living environment and security of tenure; and

*Recognising* the urgent need to turn plans into action through

- active and effective collaboration across sectors, spheres, and boundaries
- adaptive and responsive planning based on lessons learned and shared knowledge
- collaborative leadership that breaks down silos, and enables innovation to ensure implementation
- ongoing and transparent communication
- long-term, ongoing engagement with partners to ensure implementation readiness

***Hereby commit to supporting the achievement of the following targets by 2024:***

- a. **Spatial transformation through multi-programme integration in 94 Priority Development Areas and rezoning of acquired land for human settlements development**
- b. **Adequate housing and improved quality living environments, through 470 000 housing units, 300 000 serviced sites, 30 000 social rental units, 12 000 community residential units, and 1500 informal settlements formalised; and**
- c. **Security of tenure, through the issuing of title deeds and eradicating the title deeds backlog**

**We commit to directing infrastructure investment and development spending towards priority human settlements and housing development areas as a targeted intervention to respond to a rapidly urbanising society and to reverse apartheid's inequitable and dysfunctional spatial patterns;**

**We commit to collaborating and making prudent and efficient use of scarce resources, including well-located land, to build sustainable communities.**

**We commit to the transformation of human settlements spaces by turning our plans into coherent action through the District Development Coordination Model.**

**In this regard, we commit to helping each other to deliver on our respective mandates in a collaborative manner, and understanding our shared responsibilities, shared risks and mutual accountability.**

**On Zenzeleni – the People's Housing Process, we commit to:**

- i. **Rekindle the spirit of the Botshabelo Housing Accord which emphasizes partnership between government and civil society for redress and spatial transformation;**
- ii. **Develop a Sector Wide Memorandum of Understanding to give impetus to the Presidential pronouncement for the expansion of the Programme;**

- iii. Leverage on “social capital” inherent within communities to create a more responsive, accountable and active citizenry that participates in the development of their communities; and
- iv. Create cohesive and sustainable communities through skills development/capacity building initiatives and job creation within human settlements

**On public - private collaboration between government and developers for the delivery of integrated and sustainable human settlements, we commit to:**

- i. Build a cohesive human settlements cohort, underpinned by effective intergovernmental practice, that is wholly responsive to project challenges on the ground;
- ii. Develop a sector knowledge management system and mechanism, as led by the Housing Development Agency (HDA), for the benefit of the sector as whole; and
- iii. Jointly work towards consolidating developers in their participation in the sectoral pursuit of the 2019-24 medium-term targets, through an open platform led by the preparatory secretariat to the Indaba 2020.

**On Revitalising Distressed Mining Communities, we commit to:**

- i. Develop a process of jointly collaborating on integrated and sustainable human settlements in municipalities with distressed mining communities

**On making use of innovative and transformative technologies, we commit to:**

- i. Ensure a systematic but progressive approach to ITT through the *Science and Innovation Transformative Technologies 10 Year Road Map*;
- ii. Launch an innovation capacitation programme in local and relevant international innovation building systems for professionals, students and contractors; and
- iii. Design and build cost-effective Zero Carbon Emission Green Smart Home Concepts for mainstreaming into human settlements development

**On empowering designated groups (women, youth, people with disabilities and military veterans), we commit to:**

- i. Embark on policy review and alignment to facilitate substantive economic empowerment of designated groups through human settlements development;
- ii. Create opportunities for SMME's involved in manufacturing and materials supply to serve as the direct suppliers of services and products;
- iii. Improve research capability and develop research based programs to understand and harness technologies and use product mix to rapidly deliver human settlements and improve turnaround time;
- iv. Adapt and improve human settlements designs through innovations and opportunities brought by the fourth industrial revolution and mobilise designated groups to seize these opportunities through partnerships;
- v. Pay special attention to support for contractors in the human settlements space from designated groups in the review of the current finance and funding model; and
- vi. Review the policy and grant frameworks to ensure the inclusion of the minimum set-aside for designated is implemented for women, youth, persons with disabilities and military veterans

**On providing affordable and accessible housing finance, we commit to:**

- i. Review the current finance and funding model as the model does not address the current and future need for human settlements, as the growing demand continues to exceed supply;
- ii. Ensure the objectives of this review are met, namely:
  - To develop an efficient and effective funding model
  - To create an avenue for private sector to be able to invest in human settlements sector
  - To promote coordination and alignment of human settlements development and ensure accountability; and

- iii. Ensure that 20 000 households earning between R3501 and R22000 per annum are provided with subsidies through the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) by 2024.

**On good governance, we commit to:**

- i. Overcoming all bureaucratic hurdles;
- ii. Ensuring payments are made on time;
- iii. As a society, protecting our human settlements projects; and
- iv. Consulting and upholding our responsibility towards our traditional leaders and valuing their collaboration and cooperation.

**We commit to the principles of mutual respect, mutual accountability, and shared action**

**We commit to continue to deepen our collaboration through ongoing and regular engagement to agree on joint actions, reflect on progress and challenges, and adapt our plans based on the lessons learned.**

**We commit to significantly improve on local-level action and responsiveness by establishing collaboration compacts across all sectors, all three spheres of government, and with the private sector, community-based organisations, professional bodies, academics, research organisations and development agencies.**

*Adopted on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 at the Birchwood Conference Centre, Ekurhuleni*