Housing the Future or the Future of Housing: the next big thing in global housing policies

Claudio Acioly Jr[1]

This keynote presentation focuses on the global housing challenges in the 21st century, drawing on illustrative examples from several cities and countries in the world. Governments, the marketplace as well as non-governmental organizations will be challenged to find solutions which will have to, on the one hand, meet the specific demands of people and their ability and willingness to pay for them, and on the other hand, overcome limitations imposed by availability and cost of land, infrastructure and technology in order to create a sustainable city where people and future generations can live in dignity and safety.

The first part of the presentation provides an overview of major trends with facts and findings drawn from data from different periods, projects as well as concrete examples from different regions around the world, demonstrating the evolution of critical housing issues and their present and future consequences on the built-up space of cities and their surrounding environments. Issues such as housing affordability, informal housing markets, informal land supply, high-rise multi-family versus single family housing, density and housing typology challenges, management and maintenance, sustainability and housing finance, in addition to others, will be addressed.

The second part of the presentation shows a variety of policy responses that governments and the private sector have implemented in different cities and countries, their outcomes in terms of compact cities, urban sprawl, sustainable housing, spatial sustainability, connectivity and so on. The link between housing and sustainable cities and the role of housing in shaping the living space of future generations will be highlighted. The role of housing in implementing the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations in 2016, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will be discussed as well.

The session will argue that housing and sustainable cities are inherently connected. The form and function of cities will be determined by land and housing markets but also by the ability of policies to generate investments that safeguard the public goods, and liveability and quality of life in cities and their neighbourhoods.

The presentation will be rich in examples from Brazil, Mexico, Chile, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Belarus, Singapore, South Korea, China, South Africa, Egypt, and other places, where Acioly has worked throughout his 35-year career.

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[1] *Claudio Acioly is an architect and urban planner with over 35 years of experience in more than 30 countries. He has worked as housing practitioner, policy advisor, manager, trainer and capacity building expert for national and local governments, bilateral organizations and international agencies such as World Bank, UNDP, UNECE, and UN-Habitat. He was the head of housing policies of UN-Habitat and coordinator of the UN Housing Rights Programme before being appointed to his current role as the Head of Capacity Building of UN-Habitat. For a more detailed bio see <https://www.linkedin.com/in/claudio-acioly-b6708b47/> or <https://www.claudioacioly.com>.*

Claudio Acioly is an architect, urban planner, and a development practitioner with more than 35 years of experience in over 30 countries in the field of housing, slum upgrading, urban revitalization, and urban management-related themes. He has worked extensively with governments, civil society organizations, community-based organizations and academic institutions.

In 2012, he was appointed to his current position as the Head of Capacity Development of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). In this role he coordinates capacity building of city leaders and urban practitioners, e-learning and knowledge development programs, such as the UN-Habitat University Partners Initiative and the online Global Urban Lectures Series. Acioly has conducted executive training linked to policy implementation to mayors, senior decision makers of governments and non-governmental organizations as well as regular training and educational programs in universities, national and international training institutes

His most recent work has focused on making affordable housing accessible for everyone, slum upgrading, and the role of housing in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of the SDG11.1. This is closely linked to his work on the City Prosperity Index-CPI, which provides advice and training to decision-makers on the use of indicators for public policy analysis and the design of action plan for cities. The localization and synchronization of the SDG11 and the New Urban Agenda with local government policies and city development strategies is another theme of Acioly's recent work being carried out in 6 cities in Latin America.

Between 2008-2012, he was the Chief of Housing Policy of (UN-Habitat) and coordinator of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, executed in cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He also coordinated the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. Mr. Acioly has furthermore led the housing policy work of UN-Habitat in countries such as Cuba, Ghana, Malawi, El-Salvador, Uganda, Vietnam, Nepal and Ecuador.

He is the author of the UN-Habitat's Practical Guide for Conducting Housing Profile and the lead author of UN-Habitat's strategy on slums named Street-led Citywide Slum Upgrading. He was one of the authors of the Fact Sheet 21 on the Right to Adequate Housing published by UN-Habitat and OHCHR. Apart from the housing publications, he has also authored books and articles concerning housing, informal settlements and slum upgrading, urban densities, inner city revitalization and participatory urban management. One of his books on urban density has been adopted in several post-graduation schools of urban planning in Brazil.

Acioly is a frequent speaker in prestigious international meetings such as the various sessions of the World Urban Forum, the Smart Cities Business Conferences in Brazil and the Asian Urban Forum. He has been a keynote speaker in Global Housing Congresses in Rotterdam, The Hague, Capetown, Kuala Lumpur, Porto Alegre, Munich and Istanbul, as well as in Regional Housing Fora in Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe, apart from several professional seminars. He is also a well-known moderator and facilitator of global meetings and policy dialogues and a guest speaker in universities and training events.

Acioly was senior manager and housing and land policy expert with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies-IHS, Netherlands (1993-2008), where he consolidated an international career leading multiple programs on housing, land, community-based action planning, policy reforms and participatory process mapping in various places of the world, combining education, research and advisory services. Worth

noting that he was the resident team leader in Egypt for IHS, and managed long-term programs in Bulgaria, Albania, Cuba, Brazil, Egypt and Tanzania. During his tenure at IHS, Acioly worked as consultant to the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN-HABITAT and bilateral organizations in Moldova, Bulgaria, Armenia, Cuba, Bolivia, Brazil, Egypt, Philippines, Tanzania, Kenya, Angola and Mozambique.

From 2004 to date he has been a fellow with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy coordinating regular programs on informal land markets and informal settlement regularization in Latin America covering several cities in the region.

During the period 1989-1992, Acioly was also the resident lead architect and urban planner in a neighbourhood upgrading program in Bissau, financed by the Dutch Government, where he developed innovative approaches in assisted self-help housing closely connected with the urban planning for the city's neighbourhoods. From 1983 to 1987, Acioly worked for the local government of Brasilia in different positions in a citywide slum upgrading and resettlement program involving 89 communities where he managed a large upgrading and resettlement project called Candangolandia, leading a multi-disciplinary team of experts, and co-authored Brasilia's first housing policy (1983-1988).