



HOUSING CONFERENCE

Providing Safe, Legal and Affordable Housing for All: From Policies to Implementation

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND JOB CREATION

Introduction

Jamaica through the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation will be the hosting a Regional Housing Conference to be held October 18-20, 2017 in Montego Bay. The Conference themed **Providing Safe, Legal and Affordable Housing for All: From Policy to Implementation** aims to identify practical solutions and industry best practices to resolve the challenges facing the Caribbean housing sector particularly in the context of climate change/climate change departure and urbanization. It is anticipated that Ministers of Housing and Urbanization, Technocrats and persons from Academia across the Caribbean will participate in the conference.

Everyone has the right to shelter, [Universal Declaration of Human Rights(Article 25), the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements(1976), Agenda 21(1992), the Istanbul Declaration on Human settlements(1996), Habitat Agenda (1996) Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals(2000)]“. The IDB study conducted on the State of Social Housing in Six Caribbean States (2016) asserts “the pursuit of social housing is central to the attainment of larger development goals in ecology, economic development, health, and social cohesion. United Nations (UN) member states underscored the centrality of housing policy by elevating it to a specific target in the Sustainable Development Goals (Target 11.1) which calls on countries to “ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums [by 2030].” The pivotal role of housing is also the main theme in the New Urban Agenda adopted at the Habitat III Conference, Quito, Ecuador in 2016, particularly noting the influence of climate change and urbanization.

Despite the consensus on the significant role of housing, there remains a global crisis UN-HABITAT articulates that the struggle to obtain adequate and affordable housing could affect at least 1.6 billion people globally within a decade. It also estimates that the housing challenges the world is facing today is likely to persist with six out of every ten people expected to reside in urban areas by 2030. Over 90 per cent of this growth will take place in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean¹. The IDB study further articulate the need for the provision of adequate housing for over One million persons in just six Caribbean states, many of whom are residing in informal settlements.

The housing deficit in the Caribbean is envisaged mainly as a consequence of the shortage of adequate and affordable housing. The key regional issues are those of **Affordability, Housing Supply, Planning, Management and Governance, Social Housing and Squatting**. This situation is further compounded by the population dynamics especially in rapidly urbanized areas. With the impending impact of climate change/Climate departure, it will be necessary to adopt Green and smarter technologies to address the issues of climate change, thus the search for solutions is on in earnest.

¹ <http://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/housing-center-sustainable-development-agenda>

It is mutual knowledge that there are a plethora of issues plaguing the housing sector, and an equally impressive range of policies, conventions and regulations addressing those issues. However, there remains a challenge in moving from the policies to implementation, and the conference seeks to identify practical solutions to move beyond the policies to implementation.

The complexities of the issues are acknowledged and will be discussed in four key thematic areas:

- a. Housing Cost and Financing
- b. Building Technology within a changing Environment
- c. Housing and Land Tenure
- d. Housing Sector Management

Conference Objectives:

The conference aims to identify solutions and industry best practices to the housing challenges; it will also seek to explore specific policy issues related to the housing sector within the context of broader sustainable development issues and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal. Through presentations, workshops and discussions, the forum will:

- a. Examine the state of the housing sector in the region.
- b. Identify the issues/challenges surrounding the provision of safe, adequate, legal and affordable housing.
- c. Explore best practices, including case studies to address relevant issues in the Caribbean housing sector, including those related to housing finance, affordability and bridging the gap between housing need/demand and supply.
- d. Look at the way forward for the housing sector in light of the changing global environment, especially as it relates to urbanization and climate change.

International Call for Abstracts

The following are broad areas under the themes under which papers can be contributed. Abstract may focus on, but are not limited to:

Housing Cost and Financing	Building Technology within the Changing Environment	Housing and Land Tenure	Housing Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Housing Need, Demand and Supply b. Availability and Access to Funding c. Social Housing d. Housing and Economic Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incorporating green and smart building technology in existing regulations and codes b. Climate change and increased natural disasters: the implications for the housing sector c. Strategic Investments in the housing sector d. Socio-spatial consideration for the housing sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tenure and socio-economic Development b. Brownfield Developments and Development standards and regulations c. Informal settlements and assessment of the contributory factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Urban Housing: Need for a cultural shift b. Urban redevelopment and the housing sector c. Rural Housing and Community Development

Submission Criteria

Abstracts must be original and not submitted to other conferences or publications. Abstract should be submitted in English using MS Word or equivalent format using Arial font size 10" and 1" margins, and not exceed more than 300 words.

Abstract submissions should include:

- a. Title of the Proposed presentation
- b. The sub theme to which it relates
- c. Name (s) of the author(s);
- d. Position or title of author(s)
- e. Authors employer/affiliated institution
- f. Contact details including email address, telephone/fax numbers and postal address

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to: Papers and Presentations Subcommittee

Email:housing.conference2017@megjc.gov.jm

Deadline for Submission: August 11, 2017

Feedback on Abstract will be provided by: August 22, 2017

Other Information

- Presenting authors will receive a 20% discount on registration fee; however, travel and accommodation is the complete responsibility of the participant
- Abstracts will be compiled and made available to participants after the conference.
- Any presenter who is unable to attend should arrange for another qualified individual to present the paper/poster in question. If such a change is necessary, please notify the Conference via email above.

Questions:

For further information on the conference, please contact Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Housing Conference Secretariat

Phone: 920-6350 or Email: housing.conference2017@megjc.gov.jm