

Draft Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Sixth Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)

Venue: On the sidelines of the 13th Session of World Urban Forum (WUF-13), Baku, Azerbaijan

Date: 21st May 2026

The Seventh meeting of the Sixth Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) was convened on the sidelines of WUF-13 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency, Dr. Susil Ranasinghe, the Hon'ble Minister of Housing, Construction and Water supply, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. A list of participants is at **Annexure-A**.

Mr. Kuldip Narayan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Republic of India cum the Chief Coordinator of APMCHUD, welcomed the distinguished members of the Bureau and the representatives of the UN-Habitat at the meeting. He informed that His Excellency, Mr. Manohar Lal, the Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Republic of India was unable to attend WUF-13 due to some unavoidable circumstances and that he had conveyed his best wishes for the success of the meeting.

The Chief Coordinator provided a comprehensive background of APMCHUD to contextualize the deliberations. He noted that APMCHUD was established in December 2006, subsequent to the first Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held at New Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Housing & Poverty Alleviation, Republic of India and UN-Habitat. The objectives of APMCHUD are enshrined in the 'Delhi Declaration' adopted unanimously by the participating countries. This inter-governmental body is represented by Hon'ble Ministers of Housing and Urban Development from 68 member countries of the Asia Pacific region as enlisted by the United Nations (**Annexure- B**).

Elaborating on its mandate, the Chief Coordinator emphasised APMCHUD's foundational objective of regional cooperation to promote sustainable housing and urban development among Asia Pacific countries, given the similar problems and issues faced across the region. This non-political and technical platform facilitates collaboration among the Asia Pacific countries for experience sharing and knowledge exchange in the field of housing and urban development. It also enables the Asia Pacific countries to speak with a unified voice at regional and international fora on common concerns and challenges as well as share relevant mechanisms to address the same.

APMCHUD's Ministerial conference is a biennial event, governed by an elected Bureau that oversees the implementation of decisions through regular meetings, approximately meeting twice in a year. India was the first Chair of

APMCHUD in 2006 and is the host of the Permanent Secretariat located in New Delhi. Following the first conference, subsequent Ministerial conferences were hosted by Iran (Tehran, 2008), Indonesia (Solo, 2010), Jordan (Amman, 2013), Korea (Seoul, 2014) and India (New Delhi, 2016). At each of these conferences, the host nation adopted a declaration and implementation plan before assuming the chairship. India assumed the Chair following the 6th Conference in 2016 and currently holds the position. Consequent to unforeseen and unavoidable administrative exigencies, including disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the scheduled Ministerial Conference could not be convened.

As decided in the Sixth Conference at New Delhi, the current (6th) Bureau consists of the following countries, represented by their respective Hon'ble Ministers of Housing and Urban Development:

1. Republic of India
2. Republic of Korea
3. Islamic Republic of Iran
4. Republic of Indonesia
5. Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
6. Republic of Iraq
7. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
8. Republic of Nauru

The present meeting was convened to outline the future roadmap of APMCHUD, deliberate upon the prospects of next Ministerial Conference, strengthen the APMCHUD Secretariat and explore potential opportunities for cooperation in the sphere of urban development.

Furthermore, the deliberations focused on enhancing thematic discussions under various Working Groups, which serve as a collective mechanism for sharing indigenous best practices and capacity building to address common urban challenges. Each working group, under a specific lead country, focuses on a specific theme through meetings and study tours. The details of Working Groups are outlined in **Annexure-C**.

With the initial remarks concluded, the following agenda items were taken up:

Item No. 1: Strengthening of the APMCHUD Secretariat

The Bureau took up matters concerning the strengthening of the APMCHUD Bureau and the institutional framework. After detailed deliberations, the Bureau members present unanimously concurred on the following aspects:

- **Support of one resource person at the UN-Habitat India Office:** Discussions took place regarding the support for one resource person at the UN-Habitat India Office to assist in the coordination and implementation of APMCHUD related activities.

APMCHUD Secretariat will take further necessary steps for the appointment of support person, who will be responsible for coordination/communication with APMCHUD members and other related matters.

- **Contribution to the Secretariat:** While highlighting that APMCHUD currently has sufficient funds (More than USD 100,000) to meet the operational expenditure for the next 1-2 years, the Chief Coordinator underscored the importance of voluntary contributions by member countries to support the continued functioning of the Secretariat.

Item No. 2: Discussion on the present Working Groups and Focal Areas

During the course of discussion, the Chief Coordinator reiterated the broad themes and the respective lead countries assigned to each Working Group (WG). It was noted that the functioning of individual Working Groups is spearheaded by their designated Lead Countries, whereas participation is open-ended, extending to all member countries and competent national or international non-governmental organizations.

Decision: The Lead Countries were tasked with charting a roadmap for their Working Groups and encouraged to actively advance thematic discussions and knowledge exchange. APMCHUD Secretariat shall provide the necessary administrative and technical support to the lead countries of these working groups to facilitate the conduct of regular virtual meetings.

Item No. 3: Preparatory Work for the 7th APMCHUD Conference

The Chief Coordinator apprised the Bureau of the context regarding the hosting of the 7th APMCHUD. It was noted that while initial Expressions of Interest to host the forthcoming conference were received from certain member countries, the arrangements could not be finalized due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances.

Decision: The Bureau deliberated on identifying a prospective host country and establishing the related timelines. It was unanimously agreed upon that convening the next Ministerial Conference should be targeted for 2027 and decided that formal Expressions of Interest (EoI) shall be sought from member countries regarding the same.

Lastly, the Chief Coordinator thanked the Hon'ble Members for their participation and acknowledged that the discussions were valuable for revival of APMCHUD. He also thanked the representatives of the UN-Habitat, his colleagues at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Republic of India and officials of the Permanent Secretariat for their support.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(ANNEXURE- A)

List of Participants

S.No.	Country	Officials
1.	Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	Dr. Susil Ranasinghe, Minister of Housing, Construction and Water supply
2.	The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Eng. Jomana Attyat, Director General of Housing and Urban Development Corporation
3.	Republic of India	Shri Kuldip Narayan, Joint Secretary (Housing for All), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Chief Coordinator of APMCHUD
4.	Islamic Republic of Iran	Mr. Sadegh Sadeghpour Aghdam, Advisor to the Minister of Roads and Urban Development and Secretary of National Habitat Committee
5.	UN-Habitat (Special Invitee)	1. Mr. Roi Chiti, Human Settlements Officer, UN Habitat Regional Office for the Asia Pacific 2. Nilesh Rajadhyaksha, Country Programme Manager UN Habitat India 3. Harshini Halangode, Country Programme Manager UN Habitat Sri Lanka 4. Afshin Kalantari, Country Programme Manager, UN Habitat Iran

(ANNEXURE-B)

Sl No	Member Country
1	Afghanistan
2	American Samoa
3	Armenia
4	Australia
5	Azerbaijan
6	Bahrain
7	Bangladesh
8	Bhutan
9	Brunei Darussalam
10	Cambodia
11	China
12	Cook Islands
13	Cyprus
14	Fiji
15	French Polynesia
16	Georgia
17	Guam
18	Indonesia
19	India
20	Iran Islamic Republic of
21	Iraq
22	Japan
23	Jordan
24	Kazakhstan
25	Kiribati
26	Korea, Republic of
27	Kuwait
28	Kyrgyzstan
29	Laos Peoples's Dem Republic
30	Lebanon
31	Malaysia
32	Maldives
33	Marshall Islands
34	Micronesia, Fed States
35	Mongolia
36	Myanmar
37	Nauru
38	Nepal
39	New Caledonia
40	New Zealand
41	Niue
42	Northern Mariana Islands
43	Oman
44	Pakistan

45	Palau
46	Palestinian Territory
47	Papua New Guinea
48	Philippines
49	Qatar
50	Russian Federation
51	Samoa
52	Saudi Arabia
53	Singapore
54	Solomon Islands
55	Sri Lanka
56	Syrian Arab Republic
57	Tajikistan
58	Thailand
59	Timor-Leste
60	Tonga
61	Turkey
62	Turkmenistan
63	Tuvalu
64	United Arab Emirates
65	Uzbekistan
66	Vanuatu
67	Vietnam
68	Yemen



List of Working Groups, renamed as per New Delhi Implementation Plan (December 2016)

Working Groups (Previous title)	Renamed as per New Delhi Implementation Plan (December 2016)	Lead Country	Remarks
Working Group 1 (WG 1): Urban and Rural Planning and management	Urban and Rural Planning and Management – Integrated Planning, Management and Governance Structure Imperatives	Republic of India	Goal: Improve governance for sustainable development through effective urban and territorial planning and management that promotes coordination among various sectors across the spatial continuum supported by strong financial, legal and implementation mechanisms.
Working Group 2 (WG 2): Upgrading of Slum and Informal Settlements	Urban Upgrading	Islamic Republic of Iran	Goal: Strengthen preventive and responsive approaches towards urban areas including informal settlements in the national urban development policies, through localized urban upgrading programmes enabled with participatory processes and collaborative institutional mechanisms.
Working Group 3 (WG 3): Delivery of Basic Services	Basic Services including Energy and Mobility for Integrated and Inclusive Development.	Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and Republic of Maldives	Goal: Promoting legislative, policy and urban governance reforms to ensure equitable, sustainable and inclusive delivery of basic services, while reducing land, water and air pollution.
Working Group 4 (WG 4): Financing Sustainable Housing	Financing Sustainable Housing and Urban Development including Ensuring Access to Housing and Smart City Development in the Urban-Rural Continuum.	Republic of Korea	Goal: Strive towards developing an efficient and inclusive urban development including housing finance system, with appropriate linkages to broader financial markets, facilitating sustainable smart city development in the urban-rural continuum.
Working Group 5 (WG 5): Urban Development with a focus on Natural and Climatic Change related Disasters	Urban Development with a focus on Natural, Man-made and Climate induced Disasters – Building Urban Resilience	Republic of Indonesia	Goal: Increasing regional cooperation in order to improve the resilience of cities towards natural, man-made and climate induced disasters.