



## **Statement of Intention Addressing Social Housing**

### ***Background:***

The members of the International Housing Association are committed to advancing the housing industry globally. Given this industry commitment, IHA members are keenly aware of the social housing needs in their individual countries and around the world.

Social housing is generally housing subsidized by governments that is made available to those who would otherwise be unable to afford to obtain suitable and adequate housing in the private market. Social housing may be delivered by public and/or private stakeholders and may be owned by governments, non-profit corporations, for profit corporations, private organizations, or co-operatives. It is made available for specified client groups, based on income limits and other needs or particular characteristics.

### ***Intent:***

The IHA Members, designated as “we” in this public statement, have a common interest in how *social housing* is addressed throughout the world. In pursuit of this, we intend to do the following:

- We will work to share an understanding of our individual country’s *social housing* needs.

- We will work together to make certain *social housing* is preserved for the use of the people for which it was created.
- We will exchange knowledge on how to best support *social housing* as one element of the broad array of housing needs.
- We commit to discussing potential strategies implemented to address *social housing* in a cost-effective and efficient fashion.
- We will work to bring together industry experts and housing resources beyond the IHA membership to share information about emerging techniques designed to address *social housing* needs.
- We will work individually to mentor and support fellow Member Organizations as they actively address *social housing* challenges locally.
- We will use existing industry organizations, associations or interest groups, to further raise international focus on *social housing* as a critical housing need.
- We will work to support all elements of shelter, including *social housing*, as provided through the housing continuum.
- We will work to assist individuals to move up and through *social housing* and the broader housing continuum, seeking to avoid backward movement. One of the best ways to support this is by addressing housing affordability (see *IHA Statement of Intent on Housing Affordability*).

***Review Commitment:***

This statement is not intended to be legally binding on any of the IHA Member Organizations. No cause of action will arise with respect to compliance, or lack thereof, of any signatory party to the guidance and intent expressed in this Statement. This Statement is not intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against any of the IHA Member Organizations supporting this Statement.

The IHA Members will conduct a biennial review of this Statement of Intention and ratify or revise it, based upon consensus.

**This statement became effective as confirmed by the members on November 4, 2016.**

**This statement was reconfirmed on February 16, 2021.**

**This statement was reconfirmed on February 4, 2023.**

IHA Secretariat



1201 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005 Office (202) 266-8182, Fax (202) 266-8521