

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) and Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C)

www.hic-net.org and www.right2city.org

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Chapeau

(Add your concise, concrete, and action-oriented language for the Chapeau)

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

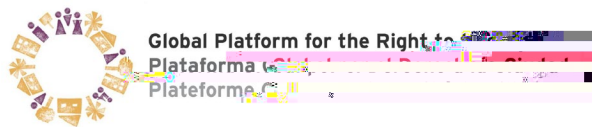
(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 1)

The COVID emergency has made evident the crucial importance of enhancing social protection systems and putting forward approaches for defense and collective management of common goods, essential to the reproduction of human life.

The urgent need for expanding and strengthening these mechanisms has been further reaffirmed by the affordability crisis experienced today in many realms and by the increasing privatization and financialization of essential goods and services.

Under this framework, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic made evident the importance of defending and protecting the right to adequate housing, with State responses indicating that there is indeed room for finding alternatives and new forms of operating, through multi-actor collaboration and coordination. This period saw evictions being suspended, rents frozen, basic utilities services maintained and shelter alternatives found through measures such as the conversion of office spaces into housing.

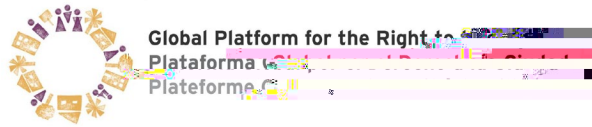
However, once the emergency period passed, these measures lost traction and a return to “business-as-usual” was observed. The measures implemented were not only short-lived but were in many cases insufficient, not being completely developed and many times



crisis is observed around the world, touching both countries of the “global south” and the “global north”.

This points to an urgent need to accelerate the commitments of States regarding housing rights and the right to the city, included in the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, through the promotion of approaches that actively combat the financialization of housing and foster not-for-profit and community practices such as housing cooperatives, collective tenure arrangements and the social production of habitat.

Some of these have been explicitly acknowledged and included in the draft resolution approved in 2021 by the Third Committee on “Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”. In the text, States are encouraged to “take steps to end arbitrary evictions and the commodification of housing, through such actions as taxing empty units, requiring a



right to the city, the social production of habitat, the just transition and the collective defense and protection of commons. These approaches introduce new forms of social, political and