

Forum SDG 11

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TOPIC 3: The question of high-density housing

[LibGuide](#)

I. Introduction to the Topic

[High density housing](#) is often discussed together with and draft resolutions should consider the connection to '[urbanisation](#)', '[population density](#)', 'overcrowded conditions', and '[housing overcrowding](#)' as part of the larger context of inequality.

High density housing may refer to a [low-income](#), middle-income or high-income generally urban area where multiple housing or apartment units increase the population oftentimes putting stress on fundamental services and infrastructure.

High density housing can be found in [low-income, middle-income and high-income](#) countries.

High density housing in urban areas in low-income and middle-income countries should be evaluated in terms of the income of the population living in those areas. This should also be viewed with a comparison to BOTH the level of population and income more generally in the country of focus.

Low-income, high-density housing may be effectively evaluated with regards to overall levels of government as well as private sector spending on housing.

High-density housing might also be viewed through the lens of marginalised and vulnerable populations such as migrants, refugees, children, women, conflict and post-conflict populations, and cyclical and chronic poverty.

For example, the UN's International Organisation of Migration's '[shelter & settlements](#)' approach might be a source of discussion and debate on this topic.

Fundamental data from the [United Nations Statistical Division](#) regarding population density and income should be considered.

Better research, discussion, and debate on high-density housing should include data, metrics, and statistics related to crime, policing and police behaviors, public and private sector corruption, human and food security issues such as access to education, access to clean water and sanitary conditions, physical and mental health outcomes, access to infrastructures such as paved roads, public transportation, bus routes, rail-lines and stations, electricity sewage, broadband networks are all part of the larger discussion about the impacts of and solutions for high-density housing.

Specific attention should be paid to government action and in-action at the local and national levels.

Questions related to the privatisation or semi-privatising of housing more generally should be considered.

Questions related to '[overburdened infrastructure](#)' and '[infrastructure overload](#)' should be considered in draft resolutions.

The impact of [high-density housing on public transportation](#) should be considered.

The concept of ‘[zoning](#)’ or ‘land usage’ is closely connected to [population density questions](#) and will form the basis of certain solutions to high-density housing questions.

The concept of ‘[eminent domain](#)’ or ‘compulsory acquisition’ is interconnected with possible solutions to high-density housing and overcrowded conditions.

More generally, while high density housing has positive effects, concerning sustainability and affordability, high density housing also has negative effects such as overcrowding the building infrastructure and overburning the infrastructure. This topic is important because the density of housing has an influence on prices for basic necessities goods, services, and commodities such as electricity, water, and fuel. Not only does the density of housing affect the per capita, but it also affects the cost of personal transport which, with higher density, reduces the price of it. By working together and taking the advantages and disadvantages of high density housing, there is a possibility for yet another option for urban living.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

High-Density Housing: High density housing refers to a housing complex with a higher population density than normal. High rise apartments, townhomes, lofts, and even renovated commercial buildings are examples of this way of living. High density housing can be an effective response to the rising demand for urban housing, providing citizens with more affordability and sustainability. High density housing is one of the topics that we will be discussing in the SDG 11 committee this conference.

Low-Density Housing: Low density housing is when a residential area is occupied by single-family houses also known as suburban houses. Low density housing signifies the amount of homes per unit of land in a certain location. When living in a more distant, suburban setting, low density housing is often chosen by single people or families. Low density housing is an important term to acknowledge as when discussing the topic of high density housing, it is important to know more about it and what other options of density housing there are.

Medium-Density Housing: Medium-density housing refers to a category of residential development which falls in between the living in suburban houses and the living of tall multistory buildings. With the movement towards more sustainable living options, as well as downsizing, medium density housing is growing in popularity. By making common ground between low density housing and high density housing, medium density housing is an option that a lot more people - both single and with families - are starting to consider more.

Urban Living: Urban living is the lifestyle that comes with being in a city area. Most of the time, the residences are close to a variety of different facilities including restaurants, tourist attractions, and even job openings. Urban living sets itself apart as it has a denser population and has more quick access to the public as well as public transportation services. High density housing is mixed with urban living as their dense population drags them together.

Housing Developments: The process of building additional homes in order to supply different population groups with reliable, secure, and affordable housing is known as housing development. Creating a

development strategy, locating a site, construction, and continuing operations are all some of the stages that are usually involved in the housing development process.

III. Key Stakeholders

United Nations Agencies including UN Population Fund

At the global and international levels, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is a UN agency active regarding population issues more generally and questions related to population-density more specifically. Data from the [United Nations Statistical Division](#), the [World Bank](#), [International Monetary Fund](#), and [Food and Agricultural Organisation](#) (FAO) regarding population-density will be important to access and use. The UN's [High Commissioner for Refugees](#) and [International Organisation for Migration](#) address the issue of housing-density for their respective stakeholders.

United Nations Statistics

The United Nations Secretariat is responsible for statistical activities. In addition to member states, international organisations, and the general public, the United Nations Statistics Division offers a wide range of statistical services as well as statistical information. The United Nations Statistics Division is important to the topic of high density housing as it is a strong stakeholder which has a lot of reliable information and statistics based on the topic.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Governments from all around the world collaborate through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to solve problems, create international standards, exchange experiences, and pinpoint best practices in order to advance better policies and better lives. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is important to the topic of high density housing because one of their focuses is on housing demand and how it has changed in recent years. The housing demand corresponds to the topic of high density housing, which makes the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development an important stakeholder for this topic in the SDG 11 committee.

International Building Performance Simulation Association (IBPSA)

The International Building Performance Simulation Association is a global, non-profit organisation that brings together professionals, developers, and researchers interested in building performance simulation with the end goal of enhancing the built environment around us. The International Building Performance Simulation Association is important to the topic of high density housing as it has done research around high density housing for years.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Not completed by the SDG11 Chair Team in time for publication.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Not completed by the SDG11 Chair Team in time for publication.

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Not completed by the SDG11 Chair Team in time for publication.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

Not completed by the SDG11 Chair Team in time for publication.

VIII. Bibliography

Not completed by the SDG11 Chair Team in time for publication.

IX: Additional Resources

Not completed by the SDG11 Chair Team in time for publication.