



## COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

### **Resolution on Inclusive Urbanisation: Adequate, Accessible, Secure and Affordable Housing:**

“The Commonwealth Parliament in its sitting held on 26 November 2019 resolves that:-

Keeping in view the fact that around 50 years ago, hardly 03% of population of Commonwealthland was living in cities and various factors since then like political unrest, employment, and increases in the population has compelled the people to leave their rural farming villages. As a result now, every minute, 25 to 30 people migrate from rural areas to urban cities in hopes of a better livelihood and a brighter future;

Taking note of the fact that the Commonwealth National Statistical Organisation (CNSO) has stated that the rate of urbanisation in Commonwealthland has increased from 27.81% in 2001 to 31.16% in 2011;

Also taking note of the fact that this rapid urbanization was ignored by previous Governments, giving rise to varying degrees of exclusion and creating a clear divide between migrants and natives, especially within the lower income groups as a result of which today, 40% of Commonwealthland’s population dwells in urban areas and an alarming 22% of this population lives in slums;

Also that on account of land use changes, intense building activities, soil and air pollution the urbanization has produced a destructive and irreversible effect on the natural environment;

The House is of the firm belief that our vision of development must go beyond sustainable cities to also encompass inclusive cities and the first step towards inclusive cities is affordable housing;

This House resolves that the Government will initiate immediate action on the following issues:

- Introduction of a dedicated scheme for converting underutilized land for Affordable Housing, wherein the new housing units will also provide basic services like potablewater, sewerage network, sanitation facilities and appropriate solid waste disposal.
- Promote and facilitate voluntary land pooling through land acquisition to increase economic viability of projects.
- Increase Private Sector participation in housing projects to promote competition and provide quality housing.
- Demand and supply side interventions by Government to ensure no project remain incomplete due to cost escalation and that the completed projects don't remain unoccupied due to non-identification of beneficiaries.
- Focus on community-driven, in-situ development of slums. Providing low-interest loans and long-term leases to encourage the stakeholders to form community planning organizations and chart with their own sustainable plans for redevelopment.

This House also resolves that the Government shall establish 'Affordable Housing Committees' to ensure all urban housing projects are affordable, accessible and inclusive for all sections of the society."

