



## **Affordable housing in developing countries: a comparative perspective**

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There are several stark differences in the context of rich and poor countries regarding the affordable housing issue.

In a rich country, there are enough decent housing units, economy is affluent, and there are small number of poor people (and many rich people). Only one remaining question is how to help the poor to access to the decent housing units. In a poor country, there are little decent housing units, economy is poor, and there are too many poor people.

It raises two questions: One is how to build decent housing units (not only durable house but also public services such as water, energy, waste treatment, transportation, etc.); the other one is how to enable the poor to afford decent housing and neighborhood.

To solve the second question, we need an additional measure for them to become higher economic status which enable them to afford decent housing and neighborhood.

This special session will discuss Planning and Affordable Housing in Developed and Developing Countries in a Comparative Perspective. Today, 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, and the proportion is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. Projections show that urbanization could add another 2.5 billion people to urban areas by 2050, with close to 90% of this increase taking place in Asia and Africa (UN, 2018).

In the urbanizing countries, cities and territories are experiencing unprecedented transition. Affordable housing issue should be revisited especially with developing world context.