**Questionnaire by the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing**

For her next report to the General Assembly 70th session, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this regard, Ms Leilani Farha, seeks to focus on priority issues for the preparatory discussions towards the development of a New Urban Agenda (UN Conference on Sustainable Urban Development- Habitat III, 2016) from the perspective of the right to adequate housing and related human rights.

In this context, it is essential for the Special Rapporteur to receive contributions and views from Governments participating in these processes. Answers to the following questions would greatly assist the Special Rapporteur in developing her initial views in the lead up to Habitat 111

1. What role will national and international human rights standards on the right to adequate housing play in informing your positions and proposals for Habitat III? Can you please provide concrete examples in this regard?
2. One aspect for discussion in the context of Habitat Ill will likely be "social cohesion and housing''. What public policies, programmes or plans are being

considering or have been put forward by national or subnational level

governments related to "social cohesion" (for example: non-discrimination and

equality) and the right to adequate housing? Please specifically reference any

policies, programmes or plans aimed at ensuring inclusive housing for

disadvantaged groups such as migrants and refugees, women, young people, older people, and people with disabilities in urban centres.

**Several projects are implemented, including:**

**a- Legalisation and urbanization of informal settlements**

**b- social housing project**

**c- small grants project for improving living conditions of poor and vulnerable groups, with particular attention to Roma and Egyptian communities**

**d- housing renovation and community participation**

**e- low-cost housing project, implemented by National housing Agency that address vulnerable groups such as widow woman, young people, people with disabilities, and other groups of society that can afford the costs**

**f- Interest rate subsidies, which address mostly working families, public administrators and all those average income earners that can afford to pay-back a soft loan**

**The projects are developed and financed mostly by national government or with co-financing from local government. In most of the cases they are implemented by local authorities.**

1. In light of the fact that subnational and local governments play an essential role

with respect to the implementation of the right to adequate housing, what plans

and procedures does your Government intend to implement to ensure they are

engaged in the lead up to Habitat III as well as with respect to the implementation of commitments corning out of Habitat III?

**Housing and urban planning is a function of local self-government in Albania. Relatively, all goals and objectives in these fields cannot be fulfilled without the engagement of local authorities. They will be partners in the implementation of the Habitat III commitments.**

1. What interesting or unique housing policies, programs or good practices consistent with the human right to housing does your Government intend to

highlight through the Habitat III process? Please provide examples both from

local, subnational or national levels of government, and, if applicable, from non governrnent actors as well.

**The Albanian government has not yet finalized its plan for Habitat III conference. Once it is finalized, we will inform you. However, most probably the report will highlight the most important achievement of the last decade, including the recent ones: territorial reform; legalization of informal settlements; city centers transformation/rehabilitation.**

1. Please reflect on mechanisms used to monitor compliance with Habitat II ( 1996) at the national level that have proven effective and, if possible, provide examples. What kind of mechanisms would your Government envisage as part

of the monitoring and implementation of Habitat Ill?

* **The Habitat Agenda and the Action Plan was translated and distributed to all local authorities;**
* **Workshops and seminars were held to rise awareness on the Strategy Shelter for all**
* **A project funded by UNDP, called Habitat II project was approved for revising the housing policy, based on the main principles of Habitat II conference. In 2001 an National Strategy for housing was approved. Several working groups were established to revise the legislation and financial framework for housing. The process started in late 1998 and ended in 2004 with the approval of new housing legislation.**

**The government would like to see first the conclusions of Habitat III conference to further take necessary measures for its implementation.**