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## **Background note to the session on THE NEED FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION THROUGH HOUSING**

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### **Socially and Culturally Inclusive Habitat**

Every metropolitan city of the world can be described as a manifestation of a ‘tale of two cities’: the city of the well-off and the city of the poor. The economically well-off generally reside in comparatively better localities and the urban poor reside either in slums or low income neighbourhoods disadvantaged in terms of basic services and social amenities. The disadvantaged localities are invariably the place of residence of the urban poor, ethnic minorities and migrants.

It is well documented that disadvantaged localities sometimes become the breeding ground of urban crime and ethnic strife. Often the youth of such localities is in and out of employment. Further, this youth is alienated from the wealthier sections of society in the city. It is also well known that slums sprout up close to well-to-do localities in developing countries or countries where housing mortgages are out of reach of the urban poor. Families of these urban poor provide valuable services to the richer households. It is in keeping with this scenario that one advocates the cause of promoting ‘*socially and culturally inclusive and integrative housing and habitat*’ through appropriate instruments of public policy.

Socially and culturally inclusive and integrative housing and habitat imply the following:

- Integrative in situ slum upgradation,
- Inclusive inner city redevelopment of low income neighbourhoods,
- Development of low-income housing as an integral part of new real estate development &
- Formulation and implementation of State supported low-income housing in the vicinity of well-to-do localities.

In order to promote Inclusive Housing the following Public Policy and Programme issues need to be addressed:

- (a) Promotion of socially inclusive housing through Master Plan revisions and directives;
- (b) Provision of special in situ slum upgradation and inner city redevelopment schemes under Master Plans;
- (c) Provision of spatial incentives (additional FAR or Transferable Development Rights) to real estate developers for provision of low income inclusive housing;
- (d) Fiscal incentives to promote socially inclusive housing in well-to-do areas;
- (e) Framework for provision of social housing units in well-to-do localities;
- (f) Framework for integrating urban poor, ethnic minorities and migrants in social housing projects;
- (g) Policy instruments for facilitating interaction of children of well-to-do families with children of the urban poor, ethnic minorities and migrants through government run/supported local schools, scholarship seats in public schools and neighbourhood youth clubs and
- (h) Incentivising public and private health facilities to cater to urban poor families living in local areas with special emphasis on disadvantaged families.