



AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

C/o Office of the Honourable Minister of State for Environment, Housing & Urban Development, Mabushi, Abuja, Nigeria.
Email: amchudchair@hotmail.com, <http://www.amchud.org>, Tel: 234-9-6721603, 671355.

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15 December, 2008

Hon. Lindiwe N. Sisulu,
Minister of Housing of South Africa &
Chairperson, AMCHUD
Govan Mbeki House,
240 Walker Street, Sunnyside, 0002.
Pretoria - South Africa.

Honourable Minister,

Cities Alliance Support: Survey on Housing in Africa

I wish to extend my very warm greetings to you and wish you compliments of this festive season of Christmas.

We had a good session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China in November where I held useful discussions with other Ministers representing regional bodies of the Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development from Brazil, Sweden, Iran and India. The exchanges will prove extremely beneficial in moving the AMCHUD Agenda forward. Your absence at WUF4 was missed which we were made to understand was due to exigencies of your office at the time.

While in Nanjing, I also held discussions with William Cobbett, Manager of the Cities Alliance regarding the grant funding extended to African States under the auspices of AMCHUD, to conduct housing surveys. The studies are designed to assist African States undertake assessments of the housing and urban development situation in the continent. It has the objective of filling existing data gaps so as to make available current and reliable data that can be used for informed policy decisions and planning of the ever expanding towns and cities.


Continuation Sheet

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of the surveys, which if properly conducted and utilized by African States can serve as a strategy to understand the scale and dimension of the housing challenge in Africa. Moreover it will form a vital part of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms which was adopted at the AMCHUD 2 Conference in Abuja, Nigeria last July, as well as provide a basis for knowledge sharing. You will recall that I referred to this matter in my correspondence to you dated 8 September 2008 with reference URD/630/AMCHUD/TC/Vol.1/73 following the July Conference.

In this regard, I wish to kindly request you to put the necessary machinery in place through the AMCHUD Technical Secretariat to enable us utilize this funding opportunity from the Cities Alliance.

I am also copying this letter to UN-Habitat which has indicated willingness to coordinate the studies using its expert Staff in Nairobi and its Habitat Programme Managers spread over 27 countries, with the additional support of other partners.

I thank you for your continued support to AMCHUD, and wish you and your family the very best of this season.



Chief Chuka Odom
Chair of AMCHUD,
Minister of State for Environment, Housing &
Urban Development, Nigeria

CC:

Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
Alioune Badiane, Director, Director, Regional Office for Africa and Arab
States, UN-HABITAT
Mr. William Cobbett, Manager, Cities Alliance