

Managing and Developing Healthy Community and Urban Housing

The 9th National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on "Managing and Developing Healthy Community and Urban Housing"¹,

Realizing that housing is one of the basic necessities of life for everyone in society, serving as a basis for health in all dimensions and that the United Nations has come up with a set of principles on housing and urban development (Habitat 3) based on the participatory process, while the World Health Organization has over the years attached importance to housing development as a means to create wellbeing under the "Healthy Cities" project in operation since 1987;

Realizing that the Draft Constitution, the version approved by the referendum held on 7 August 2016, the National Health Act B.E. 2550 (2007), and the Charter of the National Health System B.E. 2559 (2016) attach importance to housing management and development as well as the right to live in the environment and environmental conditions that are conducive to good community health of every type;

Aware that it is the duty of the public to develop community and urban housing and solve problems that come with it in cooperation with partners from all sectors;

Appreciating the fact that the public sector has attached importance to the housing issue by establishing a number of housing-related committees to set policies, laws, and measures on housing designed to create security of life and property as well as the wellbeing of the general public, village, community and urban areas and has begun to see importance of every sector participating in housing development, as seen in such projects as Pracha Rath, including the financial sector and various public agencies responsible for effectively setting the housing financing system to support people of various income groups;

Appreciating strong efforts made by the community and the people sector in the area-based solution to housing problems, together with the public sector in such projects as the Baan Man-khong project, to the extent that Thailand has become a model to the world with regard to the role that strong and capable private organizations can play in the housing construction;

Concerned about constraints and problems in the management and development of healthy community and urban housing, which takes on a more complex and ever-growing dimension, with impacts on physical health, mental health, environment, including the quality of life and security, at local, provincial and national levels as well as on people of every income group, especially those with lower income who have more serious problems about access to funding sources, resources, public utilities and facilities, and housing funds;

Noting and concerned that the National Housing Policy Commission, other housing committees, and numerous other agencies operate under different various

¹ Document HA9/Main 1

ministries, that their policies, strategic plans, action plans, and projects to develop housing are not well integrated, lack unity, and do not have the participation from the community, academic, and private sectors, resulting in their housing policies not in line with the needs of the locality, while the duties and power of local government organizations are limited when it comes to housing, and that there are still rules and regulations that do not fit in with the context, geo-ecosystem, and culture of the locality, village, community, and urban areas concerned;

Viewing that sustainable protection and solution to housing problems require participation from all sectors at every level to ensure that the actions today go along the line of future protection planning in a sustainable manner;

Hereby passes the following resolutions:

1. Requesting the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, by way of the National Housing Authority and the Community Organization Development Institute (Public Organization), to act as lead agencies, together with the Department of Local Administration and the Department of Public Works and Towns & Country Planning under the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Treasury Department under the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Industry, local government organizations, the National Municipal League of Thailand, special forms of local government administration, the Thai Real Estate Association, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, civil society, academe, and the public sector, with the participation of the partners concerned and make recommendations to the National Housing Policy Commission in the following manner:

1.1 To conduct studies on how to improve the structure, power and duty of the National Housing Policy Commission with increased participation of the community organizations, the private and academic sectors, while attaching importance to integrating and implementing the national strategic policy on community and urban housing at every level together with various public agencies and housing committees on a regular basis,

1.2 To improve upon the national strategic policy on community and urban housing based on the framework and principles of the UN-Habitat 3 and Healthy Cities, while there are in place working groups at district level in Bangkok as well as at urban and provincial levels to prepare strategic plans and action plans and to put healthy housing plans into action at every level;

2. Requesting the Community Organization Development Institute (Public Organization), the National Housing Authority, and the National Health Commission to act as main bodies to coordinate with the partners concerned in organizing forums intended to develop public policy and pilot areas and to study the management and development of healthy community and urban housing;

3. Requesting the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, by way of the Community Organization Development Institute (Public Organization) and the National Housing Authority, to act as lead agencies, together with the Fiscal Policy Office under the Ministry of Finance, Government Housing Bank, the Department of Cooperatives Promotion under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, and other agencies concerned, to study ways and means to develop

financial and savings systems as well as funds for housing purposes with a view to having financing measures in place to help the community, private sector, and other partners concerned in the development of healthy housing affordable to residents of every income group and appropriate to the context of each locality;

4. Requesting the Thai Real Estate Association to act as lead agency, together with the Thai Condominium Association, Housing Business Association, and Home Builder Association, Association of Housing Material Operators, Board of Trade, the academic sector, and other agencies concerned, to work together to develop ways and means to encourage participation and promote healthy community and urban housing in every group;

5. Requesting the Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior, to make recommendations to the Decentralization to Local Government Organizations Committee to improve the transfer of power and duty of local government organizations at every level to cover the management and development of healthy community and urban housing;

6. Requesting the Department of Local Administration and the Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior, to act as lead agencies, together with the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, the Department of Health under the Ministry of Public Health, the National Housing Authority, the Community Organization Development Institute (Public Organization), the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, local government organizations, special forms of local government administration, education institutes, the community, civil society, partners, and professional networks concerned, to improve and develop healthy town planning and housing appropriate to the local, community and urban contexts in such a way that they can serve as guidelines for each locality to act, leading to the issuance of bylaws and municipal regulations by local government organizations;

7. Requesting provincial health assembly organizing committees and other local partners concerned, especially community organization networks for community and urban housing development, together with the working groups responsible for managing and developing healthy community and urban housing at district level in Bangkok as well as at urban and provincial levels, as mentioned in 1.2 above, to support and advocate the development of public policy recommendations as well as preparing strategic plans and action plans to develop healthy community and urban housing at the level concerned;

8. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report the progress to the 11th National Health Assembly.