

Cairo Initiative on Islamic Land Tools

Taking into account the challenges facing the Arab countries regarding land tenure and access to land ownership

Recalling the rich historical, cultural and Islamic heritage which informs land tenure principles locally and regionally,

Reaffirming the need to develop pro-poor and gendered land tools in conformity with local and Islamic traditions in order they be authenticated and effectively implemented.

Incorporating the regional experiences with respect to land as articulated in regional and international forums and conferences,

Noting that these experiences and principles were discussed at the Arab Preparatory Meeting for the third International Urban Forum held in Cairo which was hosted by ESCWA, UN-HABITAT, League of Arab States and hosted by the Egyptian Government in Cairo 15-18 December 2005

Noting that the UN-HABITAT research on Islam, Land and Property carried out at the University East London was approved at this workshop, and by the Al azahar Alshareef and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Noting that the recognition of authentic and workable land strategies derived from international and regional principles must form the basis of land programmes and policies, the delegates at this workshop hereby declare

- 1- The Islamic Land principles with regard to Land ownership and tenure and access to land which provide innovative, pro-poor and inclusive land tools, in accordance with women's and general human rights must be fully considered.
- 2- The UN-HABITAT research on Islamic land provide the basis of further on Islamic principles in land ownership, and the importance of the participation of all relevant authorities and experts at the national, regional and Islamic levels.
- 3- Further research must be based on case studies and country experiences in order they inform international interventions and regional programmes.
- 4- Further discussions are necessary for strategies in future meetings, conferences and to be presented at WUF in Vancouver, Canada June 2006.
- 5- To create a special network for Islamic Land Tools as part of the international global land tools network, which UN-HABITAT is requested to facilitate.
- 6- The international community, the Islamic countries and all stakeholders to provide the necessary resources and expertise in order to support and sponsor the initiatives in the fields of research and implementation

- 7- UN-HABITAT as focal point at this stage to coordinate and organize a forum on land ownership in Islamic law which is eventually to be run by Arab partners.

Adopted in Cairo
December 18, 2005