

POST GRADUATE CENTRE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
KULeuven, Belgium

in cooperation with :
HOUSING RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT UNIT
University of Nairobi, Kenya

sponsored by :
UNITED NATIONS CENTRE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, Kenya

funded by :
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION - BELGIUM



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KENYAN HOUSING POLICY
INSTITUTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

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October, 1984

1.0.0 PREAMBLE

At present and in some years to come, discussions on human settlements abound at the international, regional and national levels in Kenya. It is fortunate for Nairobi, in particular, to be a centre of activities on shelter with the headquarters of United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (UNCHS) and on that account also a focal point of discussions on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless to be held in Nairobi in 1968; the recently instituted headquarters for Shelter Afrique will also create fora for discussions, on a regional scale, amongst other issues, on disbursement of funds for housing development in African countries. Within the environment of global economic recession, accelerated growth in population and expanding urban settlements - planning emphases lie on maximization of resources, using the self-help potential and varied finance mechanisms to increase the housing stock despite continual budgetary cut - backs. In the Kenyan context, housing policies have gotten translated into considerations for decentralization, considerations towards revision of out-dated building regulations, finance mechanisms involving the private sector and continued promotion of site and service schemes and settlements upgrading as possible housing solutions for the majority of target populations.

Within the scope of this paper, it would be difficult to present exhaustive lists of policy statements and legislations over the last eight decades. (Materials on the various Land Acts and other pertinent items VIZ building standard requirements can be made available). However, in an attempt to clearly present the various housing policy issues in a way that can be assimilated as a whole or separately, this paper is divided into 3 parts. The first part aims to outline housing activities and institutions as they exist at present. This is described at the outset for clarity and reference, although some issues will be reiterated