

Housing – A Critical Perspective.

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Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Minha Casa Minha Vida – The strengths and weaknesses of the Brazilian affordable housing program

2. Format: Written paper

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4. University or Company Affiliation: University of Soa Palo

5. Abstract (300 words):

Housing is important for individuals and national economies alike, but remains globally insufficiently supplied as seen in the persistent high numbers of slums. The access to adequate and affordable housing is one of the global challenges in the 21st century. Its importance has been recently translated into the 11th Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 11, which represents a considerable thematic enlargement to the more narrow and technical focus of the Millennium Development Goals (Target 7D). The problem of affordable housing is complex and involves various issues, such as the public policy making, urban planning, building regulation, construction technology, housing finance, and governmental subsidies.

New answers need to be developed to assure housing supply that fits actual demand and is affordable to low-income families. This is particular challenging in the Global South where virtually all future urban growth is taking place but governments are often faced with weak institutional capacities are paired with a lack of funds. In 2009, the Brazilian government has launched a social housing program that has been identified as a best case example for a national housing program (UNCHS 2013). Indeed, the

quantitative performance of the Minha Casa, Minha Vida Program with average annual outputs of half a million housing units and investment volumes of unprecedented nature in the country, underlines the commitment of the government to address its housing problem while in parallel stimulating the essential construction sector in order to curb the negative effect of the Global financial Crisis. This housing program will be presented in detail in its institutional configuration (Structure of Provision), strengths and weaknesses and how the government responded to them. Over the years, a lot of reforms have been passed to streamline the program. There is a highly relevant learning experience that can contribute to the envisioned discussions of the Liverpool conference.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

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Anthony Boanada-Fuchs is an Austrian-French national who obtained master degrees in architecture and urban planning (TU Delft) and more recently a PhD in Development Studies (Graduate Institute Geneva). His research focuses on urban planning in the Global South, real estate markets, and urban informality – in particular how these three dimensions mutually influence each other. Currently Anthony is a post-doc researcher at the inter-disciplinary Center for Metropolitan Studies (CEM) at the University of Sao Paulo) as well as founding member of Kompreno, a think tank for South-South knowledge exchange.