Housing issues have numerous social, economic, spatial and environmental aspects with many researchers looking into the future of housing research and agendas. The UN held three Habitat conferences and declared a housing agenda in each one of them. Although some aspects of these conferences were criticized, they presented an opportunity to have an agenda to discuss.

Habitat I was held in Vancouver in 1976 and the Vancouver Declaration was submitted in this conference. In the declaration, both human needs and environmental protection were emphasized. According to the declaration, the improvement of the quality of life of human beings was the first and most important objective of human settlement policies. 20 years after Habitat I, Habitat II was held in Istanbul. The major themes of the conference were adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements. “Adequate shelter for all” was a new discourse that differentiated it from the first
In the Istanbul Declaration it was emphasized that social and economic development as well as the protection of the environment should have been addressed in an integrated approach. Habitat III was held in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016 during which a New Urban Agenda was adopted. It shared a vision of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements. As a result, these conferences emphasized sustainable urban development and livable human settlements. Many issues related to housing such as adequate and affordable housing; access to infrastructure, public spaces and services; sustainable development and social inclusion were also discussed. People-centered, age and gender responsive approaches to urban and territorial development were suggested.

The purpose of this paper is to analyse the past and present housing agendas of the Habitat conferences and discuss current social, economic, spatial and environmental issues related to housing from different perspectives and make some inferences for the future of housing researches.

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