

## FOREWORD

The country profiles on the housing sector are intended to assist the Governments of countries with economies in transition in improving the performance of their housing sector while promoting sustainable development. They analyse trends and policy developments, and make an overall assessment of the political, economic and social framework of the sector in the process of reform. This work was initiated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Committee on Human Settlements in the early 1990s in response to requests from its member States.

The studies are carried out by international teams of experts in cooperation with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and the private sector. Through a process of broad consultations, the experts carry out a comprehensive analysis of the housing sector, and draw conclusions and make recommendations to help policy makers develop strategies and programmes.

This country profile on the Housing Sector of the Russian Federation is the ninth in the series published by the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements. At the same time it reflects a change of direction in the Committee's policy work within the country profile programme. With economic and social transition well advanced and new framework conditions for the housing sector in place in many of the countries in transition, the Committee wishes to focus on specific problems within the housing sector that are of particular concern to the countries under review. In addition to a brief analysis of the framework conditions, this profile therefore includes an in-depth analysis of the most pressing concerns within the Russian Federation's housing sector, in particular the management of the existing housing stock and social housing. I would like to thank the experts who contributed to the preparation of the country profile as well as the institutions that provided funding. I hope that this country profile will prove useful to all those with an interest in the Russian Federation's housing sector – policy makers and legislators, government officials, academics, NGOs and other national stakeholders, as well as international organizations, including lender and donor organizations, technical assistance agencies, or private sector investors.



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