



Habitat III

Third United Nations Conference Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

Closing Statement

By Dr. Joan Clos,

Secretary-General of Habitat III

Quito, 20 October 2016

- Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente de Ecuador, Rafael Vicente Correa Delgado,
- Excelentísimos Sres. Jefes de Estado, de gobierno y delegaciones nacionales,
- Sra Ministra de Vivienda y Desarrollo Sostenible de Ecuador, y copresidenta del Comité Preparatorio, de Habitat III,
- Sr. Alcalde de la Ciudad de Quito, Mauricio Rodas,
- Ilustres Alcaldes y representantes de gobiernos locales y regionales,
- Distinguidos co-presidentes y miembros del Comité Preparatorio,
- Sres. Co-facilitadores de la Nueva Agenda Urbana, Sra. Lourdes Ortiz Yparraguirre y Sr. Dámaso Luna Corona,
- Representantes de la Asamblea General de Socios,
- Miembros de la prensa,
- Queridas amigas y amigos,

Es un gran placer dirigirme de nuevo a ustedes en este solemne acto de clausura de Habitat III y con la adopción de la Nueva Agenda Urbana.

Con el esfuerzo de todos ustedes, hemos logrado desarrollar una nueva estrategia que abre las puertas a una nueva etapa de prosperidad y esperanza urbana para el futuro.

La Nueva Agenda Urbana es de todos y cada uno de ustedes.

Muchísimas felicidades!

Quisiera dar las gracias al pueblo ecuatoriano, y Presidente, muy especialmente a usted. Nos han acogido de una forma muy especial por su generosa hospitalidad, gracias.

Quisiera darles mis más sinceros agradecimientos a todas las delegaciones por habernos acompañado durante estos tres días, y por haber participado muy

activamente en las numerosas actividades de Hábitat III, enriqueciendo muchísimo el debate mundial y atrayendo nada más y nada menos que a más de 100.000 personas en todo el proceso de la elaboración de la Nueva Agenda Urbana.

Muchísimas gracias.

Un agradecimiento muy especial va dirigido a la Sra. María de los Ángeles Duarte, Ministra de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de Ecuador; a la Sra. Maryse Gautier de Francia por su extraordinario liderazgo como co-presidente del Comité Preparatorio de esta conferencia.

A todos los miembros de la Mesa del Comité Preparatorio por sus incansables esfuerzos y contribuciones durante el proceso en estos últimos tres años.

Permíteme expresar mi más alto reconocimiento a la Sra. Lourdes Ortiz Yparraguirre y al Sr. Dámaso Luna Corona, por su excelente trabajo como co-facilitadores de la resolución final.

Este proceso tampoco ha sido posible sin las valiosas contribuciones de los gobiernos locales y de la Global Task Force. Quisiera agradecer a la Asamblea General de Socios, el GAP, por su inmenso trabajo en todos estos años.

Y también al excelente trabajo del UN Task Team que coordinado con una sola voz todas las familias dentro de Naciones Unidas durante todo el proceso.

Excellences and distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

As you all are aware, the Habitat III Conference is the first global summit after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has recognized urbanization

as an endogenous source for development with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and human settlements.

The Paris Agreement calls us for action to combat climate change and adapt to its effects from the urban perspective and as 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions are related to urbanization.

You know how relevant is urbanization in relation to climate change.

This is a timely moment for the New Urban Agenda and its commitments for the implementation of a more sustainable planet for the immediate urban future.

Habitat III is a critical milestone in shaping the vision for the future urbanization and it has the convening power to bring together all actors to achieve these objectives.

Now is the time for a transformational urbanization, as a centrepiece of development policy at both, international, national and local level.

We need to approach urbanisation not as a cost, but as an investment, because the cost of urbanisation is minimum in comparison to the value that it can generate.

In urbanization, public investments have the capacity of generating private value.

Excellences, distinguished delegates,

The New Urban Agenda has been adopted by member states during this conference in Quito, and the journey to the sustainable urban future has just begun.

The New Urban Agenda is an ambitious agenda which aims at paving the way towards making cities and human settlements more inclusive and ensuring

that everyone can benefit from urbanization, paying particular attention to those in vulnerable situations.

We need to ensure that everybody is on board and committed to be continuously searching and implementing innovative and efficient planning supported by strong policy frameworks and reliable financing systems.

I encourage national, sub-national and local governments to use the New Urban Agenda as a key instrument for achieving development, prosperity and employments.

The New Urban Agenda calls for a new and reinforced cooperation between central and local governments.

The role of central governments in the quality of urbanization is very relevant.

Central governments do have a lot to do with urbanization. They establish the rules of the game, especially urban legislation and municipal finances.

Furthermore, the central government establishes many of the policies that determine the quality of life in modern states: health, education, security and redistribution mechanisms.

Local authorities are of course key in improving urbanization. Local authorities are responsible in many occasions of urbanism, managing and controlling the urban fabric and local basic services.

Neither the central government nor the local authorities can address alone the challenges of urbanization. One of the innovations of this conference is the reinforced dialogue between central and local governments.

I would like to invite local authorities to adopt in their parliaments the New Urban Agenda.

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

This moment requires a return to the basics of urbanization based on the Three Fundamentals:

First and foremost, urbanization should be based on the rule of law. Good urbanisation is based in good urban legislation and its implementation. Good urban legislation generates urban value.

The second fundamental is good urban planning and design. The capacity of urbanization to generate prosperity is closely linked to the physical design. Good urban planning and design also generate value.

The third fundamental is a sound financial plan. A city without a financial plan is condemned to failure. A good financial plan guarantees a virtuous circle of prosperity.

Urbanization is one of the few social and economic phenomena in which public investment generates private value.

Excellences, distinguished delegates,

Now that we have the New Urban Agenda, it is time for action. We are all called for action to make the New Urban Agenda a reality.

Let me say a few things in my capacity as Executive-Director of UN-Habitat.

We are celebrating today forty years of promoting sustainable urban development throughout the world with you.

We have done so much together.

We now stand ready to do even more.

With the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, we will support member states, local governments and other partners as a focal point for sustainable urban development and human settlements within the UN-System.

We are already well advanced in discussing with our sister agencies, on how we can coordinate a more effective UN response to the challenges of urbanization.

We have already developed specialized products designed to meet the needs of national and local governments.

Although the New Urban Agenda is only adopted today, we have already accumulated many years of experience, with you, in implementing the most important aspects of what we have agreed today.

We hope, at this crucial point, for your support in strengthening the work and the capacity of the programme.

We look forward to working with you all over the next year in developing a more responsive, effective and accountable UN-Habitat.

Mr. President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Together with other stakeholder representatives, I am pleased to say that we had a total of over 45.000 registered and 35.000 accredited, people from 167 different countries-participating in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, held this week in Quito. We have mobilized 100.000 people on all the process. This was never seen in any other UN conference.

This represents an extremely high level of dedication and is indicative of the strong interest from a wide range of partners towards the New Urban Agenda.

I would like to thank all the contributions of member states, foundations, philanthropy and other stakeholders that have contributed financially to the conference through the Habitat III Trust Fund, and of course, the Government of Ecuador, the first and foremost donor.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to keep this momentum as we engage and collaborate and start implementing the New Urban Agenda.

Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am extremely proud and hopeful by the outcome of this process and I believe that we can all share these feelings, as we have taken together the unanimous decision adopting the New Urban Agenda at this Habitat III Conference.

Allow me to express my gratitude and warmest thanks to the Department of Conference Services and Habitat III Secretariat team, including all staff members, consultants and interns for their countless hours and tireless efforts in supporting the Habitat III process and making it a success.

And let us not forget the hundreds of volunteers who supported us here in Quito, with their good manners and permanent smile.

Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente, Sra. Ministra, Sres. Ministros, queridos amigos,

Estos tres años de intenso trabajo nos han servido para desarrollar un nuevo paradigma urbano que tiene como objetivo acabar con las grandes desigualdades e inequidades que sufren muchas de nuestras ciudades, y para hacer de la urbanización un instrumento de desarrollo y prosperidad.

Hemos puesto una piedra en la buena dirección y en el buen camino de una forma no demagógica, sino orientada a que las cosas puedan cambiar. Deseo que el trabajo y dedicación que ustedes han puesto en

este esfuerzo, y esto seguro que así será sirva para el bien de las ciudadanas y ciudadanos de este mundo.

Much ísimas gracias y buen viaje de vuelta a todos.