

Open-Ended Consultative Meetings on the New Urban Agenda

Statements submitted by the representative of the Government of Indonesia
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REPORT ON THE ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING FOR HABITAT III

The Asia-Pacific High-Level Regional Meeting for Habitat III was held in Jakarta on 21-22 October 2015. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Indonesia, and co-organized with the Habitat III Secretariat. The Asia Pacific regional meeting is quite unique, as it was held back to back with the Sixth Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF6), a multi-stakeholder forum hosted by the Government of Indonesia and UNESCAP. The Asia-Pacific National Government delegations as well as a wide range of stakeholders that includes local and regional authorities, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, professionals and academia, private sector, civil society, women and children and youth participated in APUF6. The results of APUF6 (referred to as APUF Call for Action) became inputs for the Jakarta Declaration.

The Jakarta Declaration recognizes the diversity of urbanization in the Asia Pacific region, from more and less urbanized states, landlocked countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as countries in conflict and fragile states. About 2.1 billion people in the Asia Pacific live in cities. The Asia Pacific region has extreme inequalities, inadequate affordable housing and basic service provision, as well as uncertainty and vulnerabilities related to the global economic trends, climate change and natural disasters. Yet there are also good practices in community organization that can contribute to addressing larger global issues.

The Jakarta Declaration recommends a comprehensive, long-term and focused political commitment and leadership for the achievement of the SDGs, particularly Goal 11 through the operationalization of a new urban agenda for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements; the formulation of integrated, multi-sector and participatory national urban policies and strategies to provide a national framework to guide urban development in the medium and long term; the creation of stronger territorial planning to achieve a balances social and economic development, fostered by cultural and incorporate sustainable urbanization into strategies to mitigate and adapt the effect of climate change. Other main points include pro-poor and informal sector strategies, mainstreaming disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development; well focused strategies and programs for poverty alleviation and reduce inequalities through the provision of adequate land, affordable housing and basic services, including for informal settlements.

CLOSING COMMENTS

It should be noted that many Asia Pacific countries are island states that are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and natural disasters. As an example Indonesia has the longest coast in the world, covering 80.000 kilometers occupied by about 42 million people. This is almost one quarter of the country's population. The challenge for the new urban agenda is planning for coastal settlements as part of territorial planning, to ensure balanced development, and the development of settlements that are inclusive, safe and resilient.

The New Urban Agenda is a non-binding document, unlike the Paris Declaration (COP21). If it is non-binding, how can we assure that the New Urban Agenda will be implemented accordingly?

A major lesson learned from the implementation of the Habitat Agenda is that we cannot rely on Governments only to implement the agenda. It is evident that urban development depends on the active participation of multi-stakeholders - the local governments and authorities, the private sector, the professionals, the civil society etc. Reaching a consensus on the future urban agenda requires on building a common vision and common perception on what is sustainable urban development. We propose that there should be a set of moral ethics on sustainable sustainable urban development. We urge and call on member states to agree upon a set of ethical guidelines, that we can refer to as an Urban Charter. Such charter is inspired by the Earth Charter, a follow-up action of the Rio de Janeiro Summit on Sustainable Development. The Earth Charter has been adopted by various stakeholders.