Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings
Panel on National Urban Policies
New York, 28 April 2016
National Urban Policies

• **WHY?** Opportunities of National Urban Policy (NUP)

• **WHAT?** Setting priorities for a NUP

• **OUTCOME?** Expected results from a NUP

• **ACTION!** Transformative NUP: Action-Oriented Recommendations and Targets
WHY: OPPORTUNITIES OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES

Tool for government to achieve better urban results by

- aligning sectorial policies that affect urban areas
- developing enabling institutional environment

• NUP provides clear strategy and tools for effective coordination between policies that affect national territorial concerns
  - at metropolitan and regional scales, as well as across urban-rural continuum, and at supranational level.

• NUP complements and reinforces rather than replicates sectoral or local urban policies.

• NUP technical and political process:
  - both technical strength and political commitment / support from stakeholders needed to make it transformative.
WHAT: SETTING PRIORITIES FOR A NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

The process of defining priorities for a National Urban Policy should:

• Be an inclusive dialogue aiming for consensus, involving all key actors

• Be based on effective assessment of status quo
  ➢ evidence base (stocktaking) is critical, implying need for strong technocratic/expert component within inclusive process

• Build on realistic assessment of capacity
  ➢ financial, professional, human and institutional

• Review and/or adjust existing national legal, institutional and fiscal frameworks and policies/guidelines of all sectors

• Take advantage of opportunities for intensified peer-to-peer exchange and knowledge sharing between countries
Each country will identify its domestic priorities during **NUP process**. Qualifiers may assist in setting key priorities to ensure that NUP:

- responds to population dynamics
- safeguards inclusiveness and participation in both process and outcomes
- prepares for infrastructure and services development
- develops effective urban governance systems
- promotes effective municipal finances systems
- supports partnership and cooperation between urban actors
- promotes urban land-use efficiency
- protects public space
- ensures balanced territorial development
- enhances resilience to climate change
- includes mechanism to monitor and evaluate NUP periodically
**OUTCOME: TRANSFORMATIVE NATIONAL URBAN POLICY**

Successful NUP can enable the following key transformations:

- Increase **coherence** of national and local policies
- **Empower local authorities** by
  - building capacity
  - rebalancing fiscal systems
  - giving legal and political mandate
- **Empower communities**
- Foster **co-operation and collaboration** across jurisdictions
- Increase **investment** in cities by improving business environment
- Improve **quality of life and wellbeing**
  - poverty, accessibility, environmental quality, etc.
Due to its transformative nature, a NUP can be a tool for global agendas:

- A NUP is relevant to many of the SDGs, particularly SDG 11 on cities
- A NUP can be a key instrument to co-ordinate national and local climate policies for implementation of the Paris Agreement (COP21)
- Well defined NUP prerequisite for international financing for sustainable urban development
  - In particular if multiple sources of finance need to be coordinated in financial blending frameworks (including public finance, grants, private investment and loans from international development banks)
- Implementing a NUP requires action from cities, national (and in many contexts regional) governments

A National Urban Policy should be recognized as a key lever towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda
ACTION-ORIENTED RECOMMENDATIONS

Summarising the pre-conditions for development and implementation of successful NUP:

- Reflecting international agreements (Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030, Sendai Framework, etc.)
- Develop effective institutional form (legal framework, allocation of financial resources, etc.)
- Political leadership
- Addressing inclusiveness, equity
- Addressing sustainability and resilience
- Addressing priority issues (people-centred, complement sectoral strategies, long vs. short-term, etc.)
- Coordination among different actors, sectors and functions
- Capacity (institutional, fiscal, etc.)
- Multimedia communications strategy to target stakeholders
- Improving data
ACTION: RECOMMENDED TARGETS

2020
• 2/3 of member countries will have initiated the process for developing a NUP or reviewing their existing NUP framework

2025
• 1/2 of member countries will have formulated and initiated the implementation of a NUP

2030
• 1/3 of member countries will have monitored and evaluated their NUP
Thank you