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No. 390 /n

Attachment

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and with reference to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Dr. Joan Clos's letter of 4 January 2016 has the honour to transmit the following comments by the Russian Federation on the draft Policy Paper Frameworks.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 16 February 2016



Secretariat
United Nations Conference
on Housing and Sustainable
Urban Development (Habitat III)

New York

**COMMENTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ON THE DRAFT POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORKS**

1. In the Policy Paper Framework 6 – Urban Spatial Strategies (*Section 2 “Priorities”, p.9*) the Russian Federation proposes to delete the words **“environmental justice”**. Similarly, in the Policy Paper Framework 8 – Urban Ecology and Resilience (*Section 1 “Challenges”, 1.b.6 “Environment”, p.8*), we propose to delete the subitem iv **“Environmental inequality and injustice”**.

While it is highly important to address environmental challenges in the context of urban development, we should use concepts that have previously gained universal recognition. The abovementioned terms have not been unequivocally defined and agreed upon by the international community. Thus, their application may potentially lead to misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the corresponding priorities and challenges outlined in the documents.

2. As regards the Policy Paper Framework 9 – Urban Services and Technology, we applaud the efforts to include sustainable transport in the Habitat III agenda. While solving issues of traffic congestion and making transport affordable is highly important, there is a pressing necessity to improve road safety (SDG 11.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development). This could be achieved in several ways. We, therefore, propose to add the following points to *Section 3 “Implementation”*:

Add to the *“sector-wise measure” “Health” (p.13)*:

– *Improve road safety to ensure all populations have access to safe, affordable and sustainable transport, and protect vulnerable populations such as women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.*

Add to the *“sector-wise measure” “Education” (p.13)*:

– *Provide a safe and healthy route to school for all children.*

Add to the paragraph on *“Local governments” (p.15)*:

– *Prioritize road safety by supporting initiatives to create safe mobility and streets for all focusing on vulnerable populations such as women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. Ensure that all children have a safe and healthy route to school.*

Add to the paragraph on “National governments” (p.16):

– *Establish stricter vehicle safety regulations in accordance with the UN vehicle standards;*

– *Improve roadbed and road infrastructure and regularly assess it for safety;*

– *Increase road safety awareness; develop educational and training programmes primarily aimed at children and youth.*

Add to the paragraph on “International level” (p.16):

– *Help develop local and national government capacity to improve road safety and protect vulnerable populations such as women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons by providing safe and affordable transportation for all making roads safer and advancing the five pillars of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety;*

– *Strengthen collaboration between governments, civil society, private sector and other interested stakeholders.*

3. In the Policy Paper Framework 10 – Housing Policies (Section 1 “Challenges”, paragraph 1.1 “Accessibility to Services”, p.6), we propose to delete the “LGBT”.

The LGBT as a category has not been universally recognized as a special needs group living in precarious conditions and, thus, requiring their housing needs to be addressed informally.

4. As regards the Policy Paper Framework 10 – Housing Policies (Annex 2, “Secondary Housing Indicators” section, paragraph 2. “Accessibility to Services”, p.22), we propose to revise the “Climate warming (degrees in certain time)” as a Process Indicator for the Housing Policy Recommendation to support climate change adaptation and mitigation in the housing sector.

An indicator reflecting the process of policy implementation in this regard should be measurable and verifiable. With the current wording, it remains unclear how the progress is to be monitored and measured.