

Research and Academic Partner Constituent Group (RAPCG)

of the General Assembly of Partners

Statement

Delivered on behalf of

the Research and Academics Partner Constituent Group (RAPCG)

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Distinguished Delegates and Member State Representatives, it is a great honor to share the reflections of the Research and Academic community on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Research and Academic Partner Constituent Group includes members from more than 70 countries around the world. Each member is part of larger networks of academic associations, research institutions, and well renowned universities. We are delighted to be recognized as key stakeholders in the New Urban Agenda, and would like to highlight the importance of several sections and paragraphs in this historic document related to the role of researchers and academics in sustainable urban development, in particular paragraphs 42, 126, 128, 137, 147, 149, 150, 157, and 162.

Our members are enthusiastic about the promise of the New Urban Agenda and are committed to support our governments and communities in implementing its key components. We stand ready to assist in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

To implement the New Urban Agenda, academics and researchers from all disciplines can share sound research methods and support the co-production and circulation of knowledge to better inform policy and decision-making. We would do this, for example, through the

application of a systems approach to understand and address complex urban socio-economic, and environmental issues.

Moreover, by openly sharing knowledge, expertise and experience coming both from academics and other stakeholders, we will help generate policy-relevant solutions on livability, equity, public health, safety, resilience, sustainability and governance based on empirically-grounded practical evidence. Together, we will strengthen the capacity of governments at all levels to meet their constituents' needs.

The New Urban Agenda highlights the importance of capacity development initiatives and calls for the creation of mechanisms for multi-stakeholder exchanges of knowledge, including information, data and best practices. Yet, the document does not specify how capacity development can scale up to meet the needs of local governments, nor how a multi-stakeholder exchange should look like and operate to best achieve the promise of the New Urban Agenda.

Research and academia has been engaged in developing capacities and will continue doing so by leveraging its knowledge resources, innovative pedagogical approaches, and networks. Furthermore, we see the need to anchor the co-production of knowledge in the contexts of cities and communities, as well as to come up with adapted and relevant solutions tailored to those communities.

To achieve all of this potential, member states will need to reconsider their broad engagement with and investment in their national research and academic sectors, and in international networks that facilitate inter- and trans-disciplinary science, as well as formal mechanisms for policy and practice interface, consultation and engagement.

To conclude, we offer our congratulations on the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and reiterate that we stand ready to assist in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Thank you, on behalf of the Research and Academic Constituent Group.