



# NEPAL

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**Statement to be delivered by the Hon. Mr. Arjun Narasingha KC, Minister  
for Urban Development of Nepal, at the Habitat-III in Quito, Ecuador (17-  
20 October 2016)**

**Please check against delivery**

**Madam Chair**

Honourable Heads of State/Government;  
Ministers; Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is my honor and privilege to participate in the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in this beautiful city of Quito, to express our commitment for the forward-looking New Urban Agenda for the next two decades. I also take this opportunity to thank the Government of Ecuador and the UN-Habitat III Secretariat for the successful convening of and excellent arrangement for Habitat III.

Nepal is committed to creating peaceful, inclusive and sustainable societies. In this regard, we have recently brought out the Habitat III National Report *under the slogan of "Inclusive Cities: Resilient Communities"* with a view to integrating the SDG 11 with the overall development perspective through a plan of action. Effective implementation of the Report will not only materialize the New Urban Agenda but also contribute to achieving sustainable development. We are confident that the Report, which was produced through wide consultations with relevant stakeholders, takes into account all the key objectives of the New Urban Agenda.

Like most of the developing countries, Nepal is urbanizing rapidly with nearly half of the population living in urban and semi-urban concentrations. As most of them remain deprived of basic infrastructure services including safe drinking water, health, and education, we are implementing newer

plans, policies and strategies in collaboration with local authorities and other stakeholders for improving quality of life.

The devastating natural disasters such as the earthquakes that struck Nepal last year and Ecuador this year, causing a huge loss of lives and properties, have taught us a lesson: it is critical to pay attention to disaster resilience and sustainability right from the planning stage by incorporating the principle of build-back-better and smarter. This idea builds into the ambitions reconstruction plans of Nepal.

**Madam Chair,**

Along with the historical promulgation of the new Constitution in September 2015, we are now focused on implementing it in its both letter and spirit with the necessary accommodation, addressing the need of all segment of our society. The Constitution has guaranteed basic rights of housing, safe drinking water, and sanitation. The process of establishing a new urban governance structure at local, provincial and federal level is already in progress. It needs a call for strong political will together with the spirit of public-private partnership.

The least developed and landlocked countries like Nepal need to undergo a paradigm shift with a new type of competence geared towards scaling-up investments for sustainable and resilient settlements. Major challenges in implementing the New Urban Agenda in our context include poverty, investment gap, weak technical capacity etc. Addressing these challenges first will not only make our settlements inclusive and resilient but also contribute meaningfully to achieving sustainable development.

To conclude, **Madam Chair,** I highlight the importance of effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda in full coherence and perfect synergy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with adequate global commitment and political will.

I thank you.