UN Major Group for Children and Youth
Response to the Zero Draft

Introduction

This position paper details the UN Major Group for Children and Youth's vision and priorities for addressing and achieving the Sustainable Urban Development and urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and thus the wider Sustainable development agenda and the growing role of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in overall follow-up.

The vision of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) is a world that upholds human rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), protects the sound ecosystem and remains within planetary boundaries, and monitors and progresses toward sustainable development. Already, children and youth are designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating sustainable urban development policies. We strongly advocate for the meaningful participation of children, adolescents and youth at all levels–locally to globally–in decision-making on sustainable urban development policies.

Proposed Structure of the New Urban Agenda

While we recognise the attempt to capture the complexity of sustainable urban development and wider implication on achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and other related frameworks, it is still not sufficient to form this as actionable agenda. Therefore, we propose the following suggestions to restructure the current draft.

The structure of the NUA should consist of the following;
- **Vision (Declaration);**
- **Principle;**
- **Important element (Transformative Commitments);**
    - Under each elements, it should accompany with **Deliverables;**
- **Means of Implementation**
    - **FInancial**
    - **Non-Financial**
    - **Science and Technology**
- **Follow up and Review**
    - **Local/National/Sub-national/Global**

Summary and General Concerns

As the negotiation is just starting and not yet on the stage of wording, we would like to share our thoughts and ideas addressed in the Zero Draft.

Summary:
- It needs a much stronger position on education, as well as job training. The new urban agenda needs to allow for learning through mistakes, and the city as a whole needs to learn to learn, not just the people in it. That being said, this document doesn't say anything about opportunities for lifelong learning, or learning at any age, for that matter.

- This draft doesn't comprehensively address the impact that urban development can have on health and its role in ensuring the fulfillment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health. Urban development needs to be done in a way that both limits the inhabitants exposure to health risks, and that minimises barriers while actively promoting healthy lifestyles and habits.

- This draft fails in short by addressing the reality and actual threats faced by cities in conflict and post-conflict situations. It should strongly create the linkage to the impacts by conflicts and the cause of conflicts stemming from cities and urban setting and promote measures to increase urban resilience and decrease urban fragility.

- Job Creation should be "Decent Job Creation and Livelihoods". Job Creation can be employments that are exploitive, out of labour standards set by ILO, or inadequate salary. Decent jobs and livelihoods actually qualify what kinds of jobs and livelihood are considered as the objective of policy and measure of achievement.

- We welcome the reference made to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the inclusion of Human Rights language in some paragraphs, and would like such references should be comprehensively used throughout the document.

- The specification of inhabitants in the city is not coherent throughout the document. While most paragraphs include all city inhabitants and some do specify both permanent and transitional inhabitants, sometimes specify the inclusion of refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, informal settlers and other groups often lacking clear legal recognition as inhabitants, some paragraphs only include citizens and/or residents. All inhabitants should be included in all paragraphs that do not specify the needs of specific groups. Therefore, in the early section, it should define who all inhabitants are, and use the coherent words and specify when necessary.

- Environmental protection and environmental standards do not have any qualification, although this word is used throughout the document. When the Zero Draft talks about environmental protection or environmental standard, it also mentions the limit of planetary boundaries and environmental thresholds in order for cities or all other entities to remain within local biocapacity.

- The NUA needs to have specific objectives and compromise to children and youth in more concrete manner. Children and Youth as all the other groups are mentioned briefly along the text as groups that need more attention.

Preamble (para a–h)

- The context which addresses the Balanced Territorial development is actually about the Integrated Territorial Development. As we believe, it is not just about balance, but

integration of three dimensions as well as territoriality into policy making. We call for the replacement of "Balanced" with "Integrated."

–   While it does call for actions on economic development, the draft does not pay enough attention to environmental aspects. At least one paragraph should be devoted to the environmental thresholds and urgent nature of needs of actions to tackle environmental degradation and to remain within the local biocapacity, thus planetary boundaries.

–   Paragraph 5 talks about the creation of an action-oriented roadmap for implementation. We believe that in addition to this, there must be a Roadmap for Follow up and Review. It is comprised of timelines and methods of follow-up, as well as Science and Technology component which are necessary to achieve the sustainable urban development goals.

–   The entire preamble falls shortly by failing to address the impact of cities on the greater planet. Urbanisation is affecting cities themselves, while simultaneously impacting rural and peri-urban areas. Therefore, the tone of the draft should address the indispensability in order to consider the whole planet – including rural and peri-urban areas – to achieve sustainable urban development.

–   Resilience is one of the biggest urban challenges, yet necessary to address. One paragraph should be devoted to resilience, reducing vulnerability and fragility, and disasters.

Quito Declaration on Cities for All (para 1–16)
- ◯ Preamble
- ◯ Our vision (para 5)
- ◯ Transformative Commitments (para 6)
- ◯ Effective Implementation: Urban Paradigm Shift (para 7)
- ◯ Call for adoption and implementation (para 8–16)

The **General Assembly of Partners**, coordination body of engagement based on Major Groups and other Stakeholders, has prepared and provided the suggestion in this section as shown below. This will be helpful to improve the overall text to be more coherent and based on standards which has been set.

Rights Based and People Centered. People of all ages and abilities, of any status or gender, must be recognized as both partners and rights-holders for sustainable urban development. Every person must be enabled to full access and enjoy a wide range of rights in the context of cities and human settlements (for example, public services (especially the right to water and sanitation), decent work, environmental protection, and social justice). This approach prioritizes public interest over private gain by placing human health and wellbeing at the heart of sustainable urban development.

Socially Inclusive and Rooted in Decent Work. Decent living and working conditions, social justice, sustainable livelihoods, and inclusive local economic development for all must be at the heart of the *New Urban Agenda*. The agenda must encompass active labor market policies, promote investment in universal access to essential quality public services and public commons, and realize the right to adequate housing for all.

Planet Sensitive. The *New Urban Agenda* must recognize that the city and the process of urban development exist and take place in a framework that views them as a subset of society and the environment.

Contextualized. Sustainable urban development must be appropriately contextualized through integrated territorial development within local and global environmental thresholds, biocapacity and planetary boundaries, in harmony with its surrounding hinterland/ecosystem. It must be supportive of urban-rural linkages. Villages and cities must be seen as ends of a human-settlements continuum in a common ecosystem.

Evidence Based. Policy for sustainable urban development must be based on sound evidence. This requires collaborative interdisciplinary processes, effective and proactive mechanisms to enable the translation of science to urban policy, and focus on critical evaluation of urban policies. Sustainable urban development should recognize and respect all sources of knowledge, including community,

In addition to abovementioned values we set, the UNMGCY would like to specifically suggest below as the above is not enough.

The vision should also address the **Inequality**, not just equity. Leave No One Behind implies appropriate allocation of responsibilities in proportion to magnitude of impact both between countries and within urban communities and income groups. Economic and social inequality can bring more appropriate attention to high income groups compared to equity, which usually simply implies the provision to the poor.

And also, we call for specific sentence on children and youth. Paragraph 4 refers to the future generation. To actually enable such a notion in policy process, the vision should call on all stakeholders, national government, local authorities, and others, to partner with and give capacity development to young people to actively engage in all phases of policy process.

Transformative Commitment
A: Leave No One Behind.
"Equitable access to physical and social infrastructure" is too narrowly tailored. There are many intangible infrastructures, such as education, health, community groups etc, which can allow policy makers to discuss the measure of quality. Physical infrastructure can be easily interpreted as only quantitative measure.

Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda (para 17-18)

Section A: Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development

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- ○ Leave No One Behind (para 20-44)
    - ■ Intro (para 20-24)
    - ■ Equitable access to physical and social infrastructure (para 25-36)
        - ● Adequate housing and shelter at the center of the NUA (para 27-34)
        - ● Public spaces as enabler of the socio-economic function of the city (para 35-36)

- Inclusion of the temporary and permanent status is a good step. However, this is not enough to include the people without any legal status. Even though they might be deemed

illegal in their location, that does not mean they should be denied the right to live decent, dignified, and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential. It better specify the recognition of those people without any status in its paragraph.

– Rural to Urban migration is recognised as a challenge for cities. However, these Introductory paragraphs fail to address the causes of such a migration. As many Member States call for the stronger role of national government, to tackle the causes of Rural to Urban migration, such as absolute poverty, lack of livelihoods, lack of access to the basic services, should be addressed in line with the challenges posed by migration. Additionally, it can also specify the existence of unacceptable inequality between urban and rural areas as pulling factors to cities,

– We are afraid that the expansion of housing leads to undesired outcome. This can be interpreted as physical expansion by occupying more land. If this means provision of adequate and affordable housing for all and renovation of existing housing which is not adequate and affordable, it should say so.

– Paragraph 31 rightfully attempts to capture the cause of informality, as informality itself is not reason for why the authorities have to solve this. This idea can be further enhanced by adding economic disparity and lack of social protection floor, so that this can fully shows the roots of informality. If they are not poor, people will not come to informal settlements. If there is enough provision of social protection floor, they will not end up living in out of standard of living.

– We agree with the understanding of the role of urban development and urban design in social development and participation reflected in paragraph 22,

● Public spaces as enabler of the socio-economic function of the city (para 35-36)

– We welcome the cautious position on privatisation of public spaces. Many public spaces, unfortunately however, are already privatised. Therefore, two calls have to be made here. First, it should encourage local authorities and national government to re-publicise the public spaces and take the accountability and responsibility to ensure the free and safe access for any purposes, including the freedom of expressions and assembly. Second, it should call on governments to set the guideline for private sectors how to control the spaces. Those should include the prohibition of owners to take certain actions and infringe the human rights.

– It does not recognise the vital contribution by public spaces by preventing or mitigating disasters and providing open spaces for temporary evacuation and shelters.

– Public spaces do not only exist outside. Policy frameworks, declarations and others do not effectively address indoor public spaces. Calling public spaces only exterior leads to the destruction of safe interior spaces, and could ultimately lead to forcing the poor onto the streets. In spite of those important issues, it is simply the case that on rainy days there must be spaces for people.

– The limiting factors for people from enjoying public spaces are not limited to physical, legal, and architectural barriers, but also social barriers. For example stigmas, safety and

perceived safety, and unfriendly environments come in the way of all people being able to freely enjoy public spaces.

- I Factors enabling and encouraging the availability and use of public spaces should be strengthened. When ownership of public spaces are in the hands of local community, it promotes the use of spaces by locals and create accessible and attractive environments. Green spaces are not just good for health and well-being, but also for the attractiveness and appeal of public spaces. Such a friendly atmosphere ultimately promotes the use of public transportation, parks, and other forms of public spaces.

■ Recognize and leverage culture, diversity and safety in cities (para 37-41)

- Paragraph 40 addresses the issue of violence and crimes against women and girls. However, prevention of violence does not sufficiently capture the daily life of girls. Harassment is also the biggest phenomena, along with discouraging factors for women and girls to use the public spaces, transportation, and thus participate in economic and social life. The role of perceived safety can also not be underestimated as a limiting factor, and measures to improve this must be taken. We welcome the understanding that violence against women and girls is a reflection of broader societal values and the ambition to address it as such, but we suggest the use of gender-based violence because it is also affects greatly SOGI population.

- Paragraph 41 addresses the issue of migrants discrimination. We welcome that and stress the need that the paragraph also captures the issue of discrimination based on race and ethnicity. This is a major problem which lead to violence and death of marginalized groups. In this sense youth must be highlighted, since the majority of migrants and a great part of the victims of race and ethnic based violence are young people.

■ Enabling and Strengthening participation (para 42-44)

- We agree with overall messages conveyed here. It is great to see this is discussing the investing in mechanisms, platforms, and other tools which enable the stakeholders to meaningfully engage in implementation, monitoring and follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda.

- This section can be strengthened by addition and changes as follows;

    - The comprehensive wording on stakeholders should be deployed here. As established modality to give the designated space to critical segments of society as right-holders, this should use Major Groups and other Stakeholders as whom the local authorities will partnership with.

    - All responses and policy have to be gender and **age** responsive.

    - This better use more clearly the word "institutionalise the engagement" as this leads avoidance of depending on "good-will" of policy-makers about how they engage with Major Groups and Other Stakeholders.

    - Data access should be not just open, but also free. In many cases, only big corporations can obtain the big data and NGOs cannot afford to conduct monitoring.

○ Sustainable and Inclusive Prosperity and Opportunities for All (para 45–66)
  ■ Inclusive and sustainable urban economies (para 47-49)

– In the top of this section, it must strongly address the excessive inequality among and within cities (communities) and between urban and rural areas (different human settlement) and importance of redistribution of wealth and resources.

– Enhancement of the local authority needs to be articulated in terms of how it will achieve that goal. We suggest that it will be done by decentralising competencies, allowing local and municipal authorities to form the metropolitan areas to adequately implement integrated territorial development planning, allocating the financial resources and its capacity to collect the revenue to local authorities, enabling local authorities to form the sound public private partnerships which is accountable as addressed in paragraph 94.

■ Urban form and urban infrastructure for prosperity (para 50-56)
■ Enabling business environment, jobs and livelihoods (para 57-64)
■ Participation for inclusive urban prosperity (para 65-66)

– Protection of labour right needs to be articulated. It should employ the standard set by the ILO International labour standards. Social protection also has to be coherent to the ILO recommendation, which is "including social protection floor".

– Recognising the unstable situation and vulnerable employment many youth and new workers face, we do not consider skill development alone is enough to address youth unemployment. There is also a need to eliminate policies that limit the rights and opportunities of such workers, and initiatives for decent work creation should pay particular attention to the situation of young workers.

– Paragraph 60 addresses the effectiveness of taxation on the behaviour along with labour and environmental standards. This linkage between taxation, permission, and registration and labour and environmental standards should be strengthened by the clear notion of effectiveness of those means, especially taxation, on regulating and discouraging negative economic activities which disade the sustainability.

– We welcome the inclusion of rural-based informal workers in an inclusive approach. In addition to sustainable training, capacity development and access to business services, it is also important to recognise the magnificence of access to financial and banking services.

– We do not agree with the understanding that simple removal of legal and regulatory barrier will improve the equitable participation. While it is indispensable and urgent to remove the negative and limiting regulation and law which denies the basic human rights, certain regulations should be maintained and introduced to promote the equitable participation.

○ Foster ecological and resilient cities and human settlement (para 67–83)
  ■ Introduction (para 67-68)
  ■ Ecosystems and Cities (para 69-73)

■ Sustainable Consumption and Production (para 74-78)

–   Welcome the mention to "an ecosystem's regenerative capacity" in paragraph 68. The environmental dimension, or the "planet sensitive" approach, can be further enhanced by including specific references to "Planetary Boundaries," "environmental thresholds" and "biological support systems." All of these terms and concepts have appeared in the outcomes of intergovernmental meetings *(insert citations from the reference document).*

–   Additionally, we also welcome paragraph 72, and stress to retain the language on "internalisation of externalities." This language can even be expanded upon by specifying what these externalities are and the means by which they are internalized. This can certainly be operationalized through UNEP's Ecological Risk Integration to Sovereign Credit, or E-RISC, ecological tax reform.

–   We welcome paragraph 74 that makes reference to 'public and private companies reporting on their environmental footprints'

■ Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change and other shocks and stresses (para 79-83)

–   While the Sendai Framework clearly recognised the human-induced disasters as part of the definition of "disaster", this section dropped it out. Our vision 5(f) recognised man-made hazards. This should reflect in this section, too. This requires to devote the paragraph specifically devote to elaborate the characters and factors around human-induced disasters, such as nuclear disasters, chemical disasters, anthrax, GMO, biological hazards, collapsion of building, fire hazards, derailment accidents and car crashes (especially when it loads chemicals) and so on which produce the severe pollutions and damages on the people and the planet.

   –   Section B Effective Implementation (para 84)
       O   Building the Urban Structure: Establishing a Supportive national, subnational and local framework (para 85-124)
           ■   National Level Framework (para 86-88)
           ■   Sub-National, metropolitan and local framework (para 89-91)
           ■   Stakeholder Engagement Framework (para 92-95)

–   We welcome that the Zero Draft rightfully addresses meaningful engagement of all stakeholders in all stages of the policy process. Paragraph 93 captures the essence of our priority areas. This can be further bettered by adding "Follow up and Review" as part of above-mentioned policy process. Particular attention should also be made to youth.

–   Moreover, we welcome paragraph 94 and its specific reference to " ex ante and ex post community based assessments", on the environmental, economic, and social impacts of partnerships. Additionally we believe such a principle should be the starting point of any conversation on PPPs. This can be further operationalized through the inclusion of Major Groups and other Stakeholders at local, subnational, and national levels.

       O   Planning and Managing the urban spatial development (para 96-123)
           ■   Introduction (para 96-97)
           ■   Urban planning and management (para 98-104)

- Since resources are finite, addressing environmental issues insufficiently has severe consequences: health hazards, loss of biodiversity, and ultimately, a lower quality of life. The poorest cities and the weakest strata of the urban population are likely to suffer the most from those impacts. Therefore, in this section, there should be a strong message to ensure the environmental sustainability and to recognise the key role of urban planning in its achievement.

- We welcome that the integrated urban spatial development is recognised as supporting human settlement in peri-urban and rural hinterland. Such areas harness environmental benefits as well as social and economic ones.

- Urban Planning must mainstream disaster risk reduction. strategic and effective placement of public places and transportation, housing regulation and building code, status and quality of supporting ecosystem, integrated territorial development considering the rural hinterlands, and among others are all key components that deserve attention.

- Health should also be streamlined throughout. Provision of health services and care, as well as the need for design promotes healthy lifestyles, such as urban planning that encourages walking and cycling, closeness to safe, healthy, nutritious, and sufficient food options and , should be stated. There should be recognition of impacts by the heavy traffic and overcrowded.

■ Land (para 105-107)

- Burdens and benefits of urbanisation should not be distributed FAIRLY. The impacts and outcomes from urbanisation should be distributed EQUITABLY, which mean appropriate allocation of responsibilities in proportion to magnitude of impact both between countries and within urban communities and income groups, and redistribution of fruits by prioritising marginalised groups.

- Land Value has to capture land's contribution to supporting ecosystem and biodiversity and environmental cost when the use of land is changed. To internalise the negative economic activities around land use, change of use of land, and construction on land, into its endogenous consideration before conducting such activities. Taxation applied to land use dissuading sustainability of the local ecosystem can play a big role.

- Land section is missing the whole dialogue on food security and sovereignty.

■ Housing (para 108-111)

- Affordable housing is one of human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration on HUman Rights. It better state it clearly or at least list the access to affordable housing as human rights.

- Slum upgrading is a key component of housing. Informal settlements are usually located in highly vulnerable and disaster-prone areas, which leads to destruction of house and livelihood and cycle to become poorer routinely. Slum upgradation must mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction and management throughout planning, designing, implementing, and follow up of slum-upgrading projects.

- Data disaggregation significantly improves the evidence-based policy making processes. Often young people have a tightly limited access to housing finance or public financial

assistance, resulting in lack of access to affordable and adequate renting houses. Data has to be disaggregated by gender, race, income, territory, ethnicity, and AGE. In continuation of effort, it should rightly address the difficulty facing young people to live in adequate housing.

■ Mobility (para 112-118)

- This section captures ideas around mobility, but not comprehensive manner. Walking and cycling should be under the limelight. We encourage Member States to address this issue in an independant paragraph.

- The 'Safe System' approach, including speed management and investments in safe walking and cycling infrastructure can be employed here. This promotes a safe and healthy journey to school for every child as a priority, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal agenda and the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

■ Urban Basic Services (para 119-123)
■ Heritage and Culture (para 123)

- Public health does not only refer to sanitation.Health paragraph should articulate needs and solutions of
  - Sanitation
  - Healthy lifestyle promotion including walking, cycling, and exercise in parks, supported by good public transportation system and increased safety of public spaces
  - Affordable, accessible medine for all
  - Antimicrobial resistance
  - Air pollution, water pollution, dirtiness of sidewalks
  - The maintenance of city parks, gardens, and green spaces
  - Proper functioning of hygiene maintenance systems
  - Sexual and reproductive Health and Rights
  - Access to Health-care and services including preventive health services, including care housing for older persons
  - Data disaggregation by above mentioned factors

- National Government should take a role to decentralise the energy production. Subnational and local governments have to be encouraged to prioritize "locally produced and consumed" to further support its decentralisation.

- Given the dual challenges of inequality and climate change, we propose "energy democracy" as a framework for ownership of energy infrastructure. Energy democracy promises to share the benefits of renewable energy, advancing equity and sustainability simultaneously. Community-owned renewable energy is a key urban solution. This means that a community should have control over where and how their energy is produced. Under this framework, the power to control, own, and benefit from the energy system shifts from private companies to community members. Local residents are empowered to produce their own clean and affordable energy.

- **Enhancing Means of Implementation of the New Urban Agenda: Financing and other tools of implementation (para 125-163)**
    - ○ Introduction (para 125-128)

- Solidarity with the poor people does not guarantee any protection of their livelihoods and life itself. This context needs to be diverted. The narrative which has to put in place is that the community and marginalised groups of people should be entitled to assess and monitor the partnerships which have impacts on their social, economic, and environmental lives. As paragraph 94 goes, this introductory section can be built on by reintroducing ex ante and ex post community based assessments on the environmental, economic, and social impacts of partnerships as the starting points of any conversation on PPP.

- Resource mobilisation in partnership sounds great. However, the discourse goes to the "partnership" to give benefits to big cooperation and shift the burden to the poor, community, and planet. Once again, resource mobilisation should be based on partnership which appropriately allocates burden and responsibility in proportion to magnitude of impact both between countries and within urban communities and income groups.

- ○ Domestic public resources (para 129-133)
    - ■ Intro (para 129)
    - ■ Sound Financial Policy Framework (para 130-133)

- We welcome and strongly support the sentence: "develop vertical and horizontal adequate models of distribution of financial resources to decrease inequalities between territories and urban and rural areas," However, this misses the aspect of reduction of inequalities at individual and organisational level. Only transfer based on territoriality and inequality cannot achieve the equity and spatial integration. We should step further by introducing taxation on negative economic activities which produce the social and environmental externalities which are paid by public funds. Throughout that, we can stop the extraction from people and planet.

- Eventually we can see the "Integrated Territorial Development". This notion once again should be addressed throughout and stated clearly as a key principle of Sustainable Urban Development.

- It is a good step to introduce fair taxation and site and city-wide distribution of gains to avoid land speculation and thus achieve social cohesion. However, this mechanism to capture the increase of values should also capture the contribution by lands to its local supporting ecosystem and biodiversity. Those should be captured and paid by landowners or users to compensate its environmental negative impacts where biodiversity will be invaded.

- We support the increase of local government autonomy over taxes, revenues, expenditures, debt financing, This will help the local authorities to take necessary actions to tackle the politicians and environmental degradation in the specific territorial context.

- ○ Financial management (para 134-142)
    - ■ Intro (para 134-136)
    - ■ Revenue and expenditure (para 137-138)
    - ■ Borrowing (para 139-141)

■ Climate Finance (para 142)

- Paragraph 134 needs to add 'ecological and/or environmental footprints' in its current elaboration of determinants of creditworthiness- *'effective fiscal management system'*

- *The first part of Paragraph 137 needs more explanation. Additionally, there must be much stronger emphasis on tax evasion and resulting illicit flows, that just increasing the tax base. Any attempt at increasing tax derived revenue, that only talks about enhancing the base and ignores illicit flows is not a serious measure.*

- *Paragraph 139 needs to include 'sustainable ecological footprint' as one of the parameters of creditworthiness fort which resources will be mobilised.*

- It is great to see public, private and people partnerships rather than without people, so that this will effectively show the necessary assessment to ensure that the partnership is accountable.

○ Partnership (para 143-144)

- Without strong mechanisms that create liquidity through public finance, and effectively channel and regulate private finance while aligning macroeconomic policy, we will find ourselves and the agenda trapped in extractive public-private partnerships. We reaffirm our belief that **any Partnerships** should be assessed through a comprehensive community based mechanism that identifies the social, economic and ecological impact on sustainable development. It is also crucial in all partnerships made with businesses and the private sector that private gain must not be made at public expense. All voluntary commitments in this regard should be subject to an accountability mechanism in line with other mechanisms being implemented throughout the process. We are especially wary of the increased encouragement of Public Private Partnerships as a means to achieve the implementation of SDGs and New Urban Agenda as whole as we have observed the fatal failure in Addis Ababa. PPPs have, time and again, proven to be major long-term financial burdens on the state with few benefits for people.

- In this regard, while we recognise the intention to introduce strong accountability mechanism to ensure the partnerships will undermine the sustainable development agenda, this is yet enough.

- It is imperative that all partnerships should align macroeconomic policy and be considered as public debt. In many cases, this off-sheet magic will create more supply than actual demand, which is stepping over the fiscal and environmental constraints.

○ International Development cooperation (para 145-149)

- We strongly oppose to the idea of "public money acting as de-riskers." The public funding should not compensate the misconducts of private investors which will dis-incentivise the private companies to appropriately behave, run the business, and decrease risks.

- Ensure that all capacity-building and technical assistance on tax matters is demand-driven and fully aligned with aid and development effectiveness, and that it is not used to promote specific types of tax policies.

- All donors should ensure that ODA represents genuine transfers to developing countries, including ending the tying of aid both formally and informally, ensuring additionality, removing in-donor student and refugee costs as well as debt relief from ODA.

- To make these ODA flows more qualitatively efficient, we propose that **only grants and interest-free loans** can be included in the definition of what constitutes ODA. In addition, these flows cannot be linked to market access or include private remittances from abroad. A portion of ODA flows should focus on building capacity for greater domestic resource mobilization.

- Developed countries must implement fully agreed ODA targets of .7% of GNI on an agreed timeline, of which .35% (50%) to Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) on an agreed timeline, ensuring transparency, accountability, and effectiveness ensuring transparency, accountability, and effectiveness

- Another important step would be an impact assessment of the entire ODA portfolio that takes into account its impact on the three pillars of sustainability (sustainable development): Environmental, Social, and Economic. This must be consistent with the proposed targets in the SDGs. (ex: an ODA project that produces previously unaccounted environmental and social externalities that outweigh its economic benefits, then this cannot be termed as effective ODA).

- In addition to the amount of ODA, its governance is extremely critical as well. A firm priority through the New Urban Agenda is to establish monitoring, evaluation and accountability process for all inhabitants, especially young people that are the supposed beneficiaries of the agenda or recipients of ODA and population in peri-urban and rural areas that are affected by policy implemented in cities socially, economically, and environmentally. Integrated Territorial Development should be an indispensable principle to design the ODA granted projects. We ask that any framework that is appropriating ODA allocation and effectiveness must include community and specifically youth participation mechanisms. Participatory budgeting and allocation, along with monitoring and evaluation will improve outcomes.

  - ⭘ Science, technology, innovation and capacity-development (para 150-163)
    - ■ Capacity Development (para 150-157)
    - ■ Technology and Innovation (para 158-160)
    - ■ Data Collection and Analysis (para 161-163)

- Capacity Development is a critical component of this agenda to actually enable all stakeholders to take necessary actions. This means such capacity development should be tailored to both organisations and individuals. Awareness raising of individuals is clearly not enough. We firmly believe this section can talk about Education. In addition to formal education, informal and non-formal educations also contribute to individual capacity building. Those education has to be accessible regardless of ages, races, genders, ethnicities, territories, and among others. Lifelong learning is an idea to ensure people can learn whenever people want.

- It is often the case that despite the will of authorities they do not have appropriate and adequate data to design, implement, monitor, and follow up the policy decision. By integrating capacity development and providing financial means to collect the data, national, subnational, and local government can proactively address issues.

- Throughout all policy and processes, all data should be disaggregated, regardless type of indicators, by age, gender, income, disability, territory.

- While the use of information and communication technology can be a way to further participation, such advances should not be considered a replacement for other participation mechanisms, in order to ensure that those without access to such technologies are not left behind.

Section C: Follow Up and Review (164-175)

- Without establishing a robust accountability and follow up mechanism, the shortcomings of Habitat II will only be compounded especially in the context of increased complexities of cities today. The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the apex of FuR architecture for a comprehensive, evidence based sustainable development agenda. The Zero Draft starkly fails to make any reference to the HLPF, it should clearly reference and identify modalities for the FuR of the NUA to feed into the HLPF.

- In addition to the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda must clearly align with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, The Samoa Pathway, the HLPF, and other processes which are fed into the HLPF. Sendai Framework and the HLPF have the regional follow up mechanism. The Habitat III Follow-up Forum at regional level should seek the maximisation of synergy between them.

- Furthermore, a rights based follow up process needs to specify the role of Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) in its engagement. This will ensure designated and protected spaces for meaningful engagement of rightsholder groups and those critical to the success of sustainable urban development. This will also increase coherence with FuR modalities of the 2030 Agenda.

- Periodic progress report on implementation of New Urban Agenda should occur **every year** in order to fully feed into the HLPF. Such reports should be prepared by all UN agencies, led by UN Habitat and UNDESA. Like GSDR, the stakeholders should be able to provide the report and join the review process of the report.

- Evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is a good idea for all levels of governments to be able to implement the agenda effectively. In order to utilize whole experiences and knowledges related to sustainable urban development, such a guidance should be prepared by all UN agencies and contributed by the Member States and Major Groups and other Stakeholders, not just by UN Habitat.

- General Assembly of Partners for Habitat III just exists in this process as a tool to effectively coordinate stakeholders. As legally established modality, we have to refer to stakeholders as Major Groups and Other Stakeholders to be comprehensive to other sustainable development processes.

- New Urban Agenda Investment Advisory Committee [NUA--IAC] would involve engaging a select group of representatives from civil society organizations to support and advise on all

investments made by international financial institutions (IFIs) as well as bilateral donors for urban infrastructure and development, to ensure transparency and accountability to the public and communities impacted by these projects. The representatives will work closely with the IFIs to ensure that funding decisions match the priorities agreed to in the New Urban Agenda. Such IFIs include, but are not limited to the following institutions: World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), European Investment Bank (EIB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), CAF – Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Inter--American Development Bank Group (IDB, IADB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Bilateral donors would be encouraged to engage this Committee in support of their work, as appropriate.

–   World Urban Forum is a great spaces for everyone to exchange the views and discuss. However, that is not the decision–making or follow up and review mechanism. Especially, bearing in mind the Member States are not in the driving seat and the critical segments of society, such as children and youth, women, older persons, and many others are not guaranteed to participate fairly and equally, it is inappropriate to recognise such a space as a prominent space for stakeholders and governments.

–   The followup and review of Habitat III should include **annual Global and Regional Habitat III Follow Up Forums.** While ensuring the global commitment and best practice sharing among members States, regional forums will more appropriately tackle the implementation and review unique to each region's struggle to achieve sustainable urban development. In order to enhance the importance of the respective forums, both Global and Regional forums must have intergovernmentally negotiated outcomes. These in turn should be linked to the Regional and Global HLPF meetings. The modalities for this architecture should be drawn from the already intergovernmentally agreed language from GA Res 67/290.