



Statement delivered by Mr Peter Eriksson,  
Minister of Housing and Digital  
Development, Government of Sweden

17 October 2016

**Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation/  
Ministry of the Environment and Energy  
Sweden**

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17 Oct. 2016 – delivered by Mr Peter Eriksson, Minister of Housing and  
digital development, Government of Sweden**

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- Distinguished Co-Chairs, Ministers, Excellences,
- Dear Colleagues,
- I would like to start by thanking our hosts, - Ecuador and the City of Quito, - for hosting this highly important and well organized conference.
- Sweden welcomes the New Urban Agenda which is important for the implementation of Agenda 2030, as well as the Paris Agreement.
- The urbanisation is transforming our world, both in the cities and in the rural areas. Everyone and everyplace are affected just as it is with the globalised production system, and the digitalization of everyday life.
- These global trends change the way we think and the way we live - for good and for bad. It creates enormous challenges to our societies but also big possibilities for all those who dare to meet the new world with better city planning, with sustainable modern transport systems and renewable




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energy and good education. For all that go for inclusive cities for all citizens, we can reach a better world for our kids to grow up in.

- But it does not come by itself.

-The New Urban agenda will guide sustainable urban development over the next 20 years to come in a manner that contributes successfully with severe and many times complex challenges facing the planet.

-Cities and urban areas are first and foremost human settlements. Urban areas should be developed to improve the living conditions of its present and future citizens. Therefore good housing must always be at the top of an Urban Agenda.

- For Sweden four things are specifically important:

1. Sustainable urban development,
2. Digitalization and the concept of smart cities,
3. Gender equality and women's empowerment and
4. Social inclusion and integration.

-I will go a little bit deeper in one of these bullets.

-It is important to apply the gender perspective in planning and development of the city. Cities should be a good place for both for all - men and women, boys and girls. Special attention should be given to women's perspectives when planning public transport and safe bike- and walkways. Women uses and chooses more public transport and self-transport.

-Gender equality and women empowerment must be secured in the implementation face of the New Urban Agenda. Women's empowerment and women's full participation and leadership in the economy are vital to achieve sustainable development as well as economic development.

-Sustainable development is also about social inclusion. We have an important challenge to include and integrate the large amount of immigrants and refugees. This is well reflected in the New Urban Agenda.

-Now the implementation process is of extreme importance. Sweden will try to harness the national momentum for implementing Agenda 2030 when it comes to bring about the paradigm shift envisaged in the New Urban Agenda. In this process the importance of maintaining a good knowledge base to achieve the new objectives cannot be overstated.

-Thank You