



INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA, AT THE HABITAT III INFORMAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS: (NEW YORK, 19 MAY 2016)

Madame Co-Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The Group wishes to express our preliminary views on Part A. Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development as follows:

- We again reiterate that the zero draft is a good starting point for our negotiations towards a New Urban Agenda, reflecting as it does the challenges posed by growing inequality, and the persistence of poverty among other concerns. We welcome the attention given to issues such as adequate housing and shelter, urban informality, urban safety, green public spaces, the relevance of good policy and governance, harnessing the urban demographic dividend, ecologically sustainable cities and human settlements, integrated system of water planning and management, and the implementation of risk-informed development, among others.
- In this context, section A in our view is the section of the document which states “the what” and as such we believe it needs to be more robust and specific, without being overly prescriptive. [Notwithstanding the engagement of various stakeholders, the main audience will be practitioners implementing policy]. We see the attempt to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development in this Part A (divided into three main sections).
- We do not believe it is necessary for the New Urban Agenda to redefine what we agreed last year. Rather it should state what needs to be done locally, and identify the interlinkages and cross-cutting issues.
- We find that there are a number of phrases and terminology that are not clear and can be open to multiple interpretations. The first sentence of OP44 and OP50 are examples and these references should be avoided, since the meaning is not clear.
- The environmental aspect as mentioned in our interventions yesterday needs to be strengthened and multilaterally agreed terminology applied. In this regard the issue of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) needs to be more adequately reflected. At present there appears to be a greater emphasis on the production side.

- There are inconsistencies in the climate section and this point should be taken in the same line as what was just mentioned on the environmental aspect.
- The issue of resilience to disasters and climate change needs to be further strengthened.
- In addressing the issue of oceans and seas, this needs to reflect the connectivity with cities.
- Whilst there is reference to slums in the document, we find that the document does not adequately address the issue of informal settlements and slum upgrading and efforts to prevent the formation of new slums. This has been a key part of the Habitat agenda and should be maintained.
- Food and agriculture is another important area that needs further attention in the document.
- Finally, we note that education is not mentioned in the document and believe that given its importance as a driver for development (emphasize education for jobs and for economic development) this also needs to be addressed.

Thank you, Madame Co-chair.