

Habitat III - Plenary Session

Intervention by UNODC Head of Delegation

19 Oct. 2016

Excellency's, delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to speak to you here today at this plenary session of Habitat 3. For UNODC, the new urban agenda is, in many senses, a continuation of the transformative, universal, and integrated sustainable development agenda that was adopted by member states last year. In particular, by including goal 16 on safety, justice, the rule of law and popular participation, the 2030 agenda clearly recognised the importance of these issues as both, a part of and a precondition for sustainable and equitable growth.

In much the same way, the new urban agenda recognises the importance of addressing these issues at all levels, global, regional, national and local, if we are to make our cities the sites of innovation, progress and equity.

For us in UNODC, we thus see Goal 16 as being effectively echoed in much of the language of the New Urban Agenda.

Urban safety and in particular crime prevention, requires besides a well-functioning humane and accessible criminal justice system, evidence-based policies and programmes that effectively target the causal factors of crime and victimization.

We know that cities have enormous potential to identify and address risk factors at individual and community levels and design effective and innovative crime prevention policies and programmes. Indeed, many of the well-known local crime prevention initiatives are city-led.

It is clear that coordination and cooperation between national and local levels of government is paramount to capitalize on cities' strengths to help bring down crime and violence and above all to promote inclusion and people's well-being. Regulation, enforcement, engagement and resilience are key elements of effective (urban) safety governance that should be considered.

Supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires commitment and close collaboration between relevant entities of the UN system, national and local governments, the private sector and communities. In this regard, we consider the following three points a priority:

- Building a global partnership of relevant UN entities and other stakeholders to effectively target causal factors of crime and violence at city level, including addressing corruption. We look forward to working with colleagues to define the contours of this partnership and to strengthen its links with ongoing processes for implementing the 2030 agenda. How such a partnership initiative could look like, we will discuss later in this session.
- Develop UN system-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities as part of the implementation of the New Agenda. As you may know, UNODC has been asked by the General Assembly (GA/RES/68/188) to support UN-Habitat in the development of these guidelines and we call on all relevant UN entities and others to assist both UN-Habitat and us in these efforts with a view to design a tool that is truly universal, but allows for effective localisation.

- Finally, the development of a framework to monitor crime prevention and security at city level. It is clear that we need more and better data to direct our actions and to make such data widely available, including through the periodic report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.