

**HABITAT III, 6<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting**  
**Distinguished Representative of the United Nations Capital Development Fund,**  
**Habitat III, 6<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting.**  
**19. Oct. 2016**

(00:24') UNCDF, we are an agency dedicated to the 48 least developed countries in the world and to provide them with technical assistance and the capital support needed to meet their development objectives. For as, the new urban agenda is a new urban imperative. There are over 2 billion people living in secondary cities in developing countries many of those in the 48 least developing countries. Our focus on secondary cities is important because there are the most rapidly growing cities currently and unless they can be stabilized they wouldn't hold the population they wouldn't be able to provide a decent standard of living within those cities and people will continue to migrate to the capital cities. Now has been a lot of talk in the new urban agenda about blending finance, private finance, different ways of financing. That is very valid and works very well in a lot of the largest cities, the biggest cities and a lot of the developing and developed world. It is much more difficult for a town or five hundred thousand people in some of the least developed countries when that town was quite recently small district capital with maybe one hundred thousand people and the growth has been so fast that the infrastructure investment is not been able to catch up. How can the new urban agenda enable these secondary cities in least developed countries to get the infrastructure investments per capita that they need to meet their obligations to the Paris Agreement and to meet the SDG's. This is the major challenge and is a challenge that UNCDF is vocational designed to solve. We work with our partners, The Financing for Development Office of United Nations – DESA; the Agency for Economic and Social Affairs. Off course, with UNDP, who work as one of our major partners; with UN Habitat and with the major development banks: The World Bank, KfW, AfDB, and others who scale up the financing models that we pilot and test. Our mandate is to pilot, test and develop innovative financing mechanisms to enable these secondary cities to attract the kind of finance often from domestic markets, from domestic banks, even from pension funds if possible for the infrastructure they required. Just finally, a couple of points of notes. The connections between the new urban agenda and the Paris Agreement are very strong or they need to be made stronger. It is noted that we will need as a world to cease using concrete and steel in the way we used now for example. If we are to meet the challenges of the Paris Agreement, if we are to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. That is a major challenge. Is an urban challenge, it is a local government challenge. It is about building regulations, building codes, forms of constructions, forms of financing. Even more so, in the least developed countries and the secondary cities there are obligations to the Paris Agreement related to climate adaptation, how to build sustainable infrastructure that can we stand up to 1.5 degrees or more increasing climate change. Therefore, the secondary cities in least developed countries need access to the green climate fund, to other forms of climate finance that currently tend to be located at the central government level. And there is not verifiable means to transfer those resources to the local government who have the responsibility for building resilience. We are working on a mechanism to enable that to happen. There are 12 countries that are currently joint the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) to

enable the local governments to attract climate finance. So, in conclusion, I would like to thank the organizers habitat and thank the development partners but must of all the mayors and the cities and the citizens of those cities who have work hard over the last year or so on this new urban agenda which you know, takes place once every 20 years so, we don't have more choice we have to get it right first time and I believe that we've made a major step at this conference. Thank you very much. (4:45')

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