**Press Release: HABITAT III Networking Event Cities – Combating Urban Poverty**

Association of Social Democratic Municipalities, Turkey is organizing a networking event entitled ‘Cities Combating Urban Poverty” in HABITAT III Conference in partnership with Friedric-Ebert-Stiftung Turkey and Global Diplomacy Lab.

Progressive urbanization all around the globe, and an increase in responsibilities of local authorities upon civil society are two trends that call for an international cooperation. Cities are becoming centers of vastly dynamic economies. In consequence, populations tend to shift to cities in masses. The large majority of these populations end up in poverty-stricken informal settlements, which create persistent problems such as unemployment, exclusion from the society, or poverty.

In the event, informal workers will take the floor together with international organizations, mayors, civil society practitioners, scholars, and donors that develop global agendas, and come up with local solutions for urban poverty. The essential objective of the networking event is to discuss how a global cooperation and commitment on poverty reduction can be incentivized among cities. The participants will seek answers to how a commitment agreement can be reached among cities. The exchange of opinions in the event will aim at future cooperation, and action on the following topics:

* How to develop models and standardized measures on urban poverty reduction
* How to convince cities to develop adequate administrative structures in order to take the necessary steps for poverty alleviation
* How to support cities in developing an urban poverty action plan, especially some concrete measures leading to urban poverty reduction
* How the action plan can be used for evaluation, monitoring, and veriﬁcation purposes
* How to develop models to utilize the sources of local stakeholders in the development of the action plans on urban poverty
* How to ensure that experiences and know-how are shared among local authorities;
* How the message of commitment can be spread in appropriate environments, particularly by encouraging other mayors to join the initiative

The networking event is scheduled to take place on **October 19, between 04:30 P.M. –06:30 P.M.,** in room MR18 at the venue of the Habitat III Conference, Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana "Benjamin Carrion".

Onur Eryuce, the Secretary General of SODEM, and a member of GDL, will oversee the moderation of the networking event. The below-listed speakers will contribute to the discussion:

* SODEM, Chairman / Seferihisar Mayor: **Tunc Soyer**
* FES (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung): **Anja Minnaert / Gustavo Endara**
* GDL (Global Diplomacy Lab): **Onur Eryuce**
* WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment), Globalizing and Organizing: **Sonia Maria Dias, PhD**
* Two women recyclers from WIEGO networks:
* RENAREC (The National Network of Waste Pickers of Ecuador): **Elbia Pisuña**
* CTEP (the Confederation of Workers from Popular Economy): **Jacquelina Flores**
* World Bank, Specialist Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience: **Phoram ShahUrban**,
* Cities Alliance, Urban Analyst: **Lisa Reudenbach**
* UN-HABITAT, Director New York Office: **Yamina Djacta**
* UNDP, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Montenegro and senior member of the UNDP delegation: **Ms. Fiona McCluney**
* European Commission DG Regio, Head of Unit for Inclusive Growth, Territorial and Urban Development: **Ms. Judith Torokne-Rozsa**
* European Commission DG DEVCO, Deputy Director General: **Marjeta Jager**