

CANADA COMMENTS ON PREAMBLE AND OPENING SECTION OF ZERO DRAFT

Merci Madame la co-présidente

In Canada's view, the Zero Draft is comprised of the elements for a successful New Urban Agenda. However, it will be most effective if it is clear, concise, practical and actionable. We thank the co-facilitators once again for your tremendous work and allow us to reassure you that you have Canada's full and complete confidence.

The New Urban Agenda has a significant opportunity to promote the economic growth of not only urban development but rural communities as well. Challenges still remain such as reducing poverty, social inequalities, creating jobs, sustained economic development and prosperity. These areas could be further reinforced in the Zero Draft, as could the concepts of social inclusion, and peaceful and pluralistic societies.

Canada supports grounding the New Urban Agenda in the commitments, goals and aspirations of the outcomes of Habitat I held in Vancouver in 1976 and Habitat II held in Istanbul in 1996. As we look to the next version of the Outcome Document, we caution against existing references of matters that are distinctly political in nature and reiterate the importance of avoiding such references in subsequent drafts¹.

And finally, on the follow-up and review process of Habitat III. Canada stresses the importance of ensuring that the governance mechanism of UN Habitat focus on reaffirming its existing mandate objectives and priorities, rather than expand its role. In particular, Canada cautions the inclusion of additional implementation policies for the sustainable development goals as the follow-up and review process of Agenda 2030 is still being negotiated.

Thank you/Merci

¹ Language as suggested by PRMNY when dealing with the issue of foreign occupation (Paragraph 12 in the Zero Draft)